

2001 Provincial Child Care Survey

FINAL REPORT

prepared for:

Ministry of Community, Aboriginal
and Women's Services
Child Care Policy Branch

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2001 PROVINCIAL CHILD CARE SURVEY FINAL REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2001 Provincial Child Care Survey was intended to provide an up-to-date database of child care services in BC during the week of April 2 to 6, 2001. Two separate surveys were administered: one for licensed centre-based child care programs; and one for licensed family child care programs. The 2001 Provincial Child Care Survey captured much of the same information as in previous child care surveys in 1997, 1993, and 1991, but was revised to ensure relevancy to recent developments in child care in British Columbia. The information gathered was comparable over time with previous provincial child care surveys, for the purpose of analyzing trends, including but not limited to: the number and types of facilities and spaces, enrolment, fees, subsidies, staffing and use of government programs. As in previous years, the data were analyzed at the provincial level and by 20 Health Regions.

The Unit for Child Care Research at the University of Victoria was successful in its bid to the Ministry of Social Development and Economic Security to undertake the 2001 Provincial Child Care Survey. The Steering Committee was made up of the contract manager from the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services (MCAWS), the Executive Director of the Child Care Branch, MCAWS, the Director of the Child Care Policy Branch, MCAWS, a representative from the Ministry of Children and Family Development (supported child care program); the Ministry of Health Services (MOHS), Community Care Facilities Branch; and the Applied Research and Evaluation Branch, Ministry of Human Resources (MHR).

Participating ministries and the Unit for Child Care Research want to thank the many survey respondents who took time out of their very busy schedules to complete these surveys.

Methodology

Two sampling frames were constructed using lists of all currently licensed centre-based and licensed family child care programs in British Columbia. These lists were obtained from Health Authority licensing programs by the Community Care Facilities Branch of MOHS.

In April 2001, all licensed centre-based and licensed family child care programs on the sampling frame were mailed the appropriate 2001 Provincial Child Care Survey with a business reply envelope. Survey recipients were requested to return the surveys by May 4, 2001. A toll-free telephone line was set up at the Unit for Child Care Research at the start of the project. One month following the initial mail-out, reminder cards were sent to all non-respondents, and telephone follow-up calls were made a few weeks later.

Overall, 1,224 (57.8%) centre-based child care programs, and 1,410 licensed family child care (FCC) programs (59.2%) returned the 2001 Provincial Child Care Survey. These rates were lower than in 1997, when 63% of licensed centre-based facilities, and 63% of licensed family child care programs returned their surveys. The 2001 return rates were high enough to support reliable data and sound analyses. The overall provincial precision of the results of the 2001 survey of both licensed centre-based child care programs and licensed family child care programs is $\pm 2\%$, 19 times out of 20.

The data were weighted for each Health Region (HR), for each type of service within each HR, and for the maximum licensed capacity within each type of service, so that they reflected the whole population of centre-based and family child care programs separately. This allowed for the best estimates of absolute numbers for each HR for such variables as capacity and enrolment, and best estimates of provincial averages for variables such as fees and type of operation.

B.C. STATS provided the latest population figures for children aged 0 to 12, so that overall enrolment and capacity results could also be expressed relative to the number of children in the province.

Analyses of the 2001 Provincial Child Care Survey were consistent with those done for the 1997, 1993, and 1991 provincial surveys. Weighted frequencies and percentages were calculated for variables such as fees, subsidies, types of operation, etc. These results were broken down by HR, type of operation, and type of service, where appropriate. The results were summarized to create descriptive profiles for each of the 20 HRs. Respondents' open-ended comments were also summarized and provided a rich source of qualitative information that complemented the quantitative analyses.

In addition to the full report on the 2001 Provincial Child Care Survey results, two specific reports were completed. One report presented the results of analyses comparing child care in large urban, small urban and rural locations. The other report presented a comprehensive analysis of the 2001 Provincial Child Care Survey data specific to Aboriginal child care providers. The urban/rural report is included in Appendix G of the full report, and the Aboriginal Child Care report is contained in a separate, companion document.

Highlights of the Licensed Centre-Based Child Care 2001 Provincial Child Care Survey Results

- As of April 2001, there were 2,116 licensed centre-based facilities in the province, compared to 1,844 such facilities in April 1997. This represents an increase of 14.8% over the past four years.
- The 2001 estimated maximum licensed centre-based child care capacity of 56,053 spaces represents an increase of 12% over the 1997 maximum licensed capacity of 49,980.

- Between 1997 and 2001, the number of centre-based child care spaces (of all types) in the province increased from 77 per 1,000 children to 90 per 1,000 children. This 17% relative increase was larger than the 12% increase in the absolute number of spaces, due to the declining number of children aged 0 to 12 in the province in the last four years.
- In April 2001, there were an estimated 69,315 children enrolled (full-time, part-time and drop-in) in licensed centre-based child care centres. Of these, 45% were in preschools, 21% in group 3 to 5 centres, 26% in out-of-school care, 5% in group under 3 centres, 3% in childminding, and 0.4% in special needs facilities.
- Non-profit facilities operated by parent or community boards were the most common type of operation at 38.9%, closely followed by private operators at 37%. The percentage of facilities operated by Aboriginal governments, or by post-secondary institutions together made up less than 5% of all centre-based facilities.

Highlights of the Licensed Family Child Care 2001 Provincial Child Care Survey Results

- There were 2,382 licensed FCC facilities in B.C. as of April 2001. This represents a 5% increase since 1997.
- As of April 2001, there were 16,555 licensed FCC spaces, representing an increase of 5% from the 15,746 spaces counted in 1997.
- In B.C. as a whole, there were 27 licensed FCC spaces per 1,000 children in 2001, up from 24 per 1,000 in 1997. This represents an additional three child care spaces for every 1,000 children in the province, a 12.5% gain between 1997 and 2001.
- As of April 2001, 18,551 children were enrolled in licensed FCC in B.C., an increase of 1,551 (9%) since 1997. Half of these children were enrolled full-

time (30 or more hours per week), 37% part-time (10 to 29 hours per week), and 13% short stay (under 10 hours per week).

- Just over half (51%) of licensed FCC providers had one or more of their own children enrolled in their programs.

Highlights of the Urban/Rural Analyses:

- Of those licensed FCC providers that responded, 65% were from large urban communities, 23% from small urban communities, and 12% from rural communities.
- The average number of children enrolled per facility in 2001 was highest for rural licensed FCC programs and lowest for large urban facilities.
- Despite having more children enrolled, about 44% of small urban and rural licensed FCC programs had vacancies, compared to 38% of facilities in large urban areas.
- For licensed centre-based child care, 67% of the reporting facilities were from large urban communities, 21% from small urban communities, and 13% from rural communities.
- Enrolment per space in licensed centre-based facilities was highest in small urban areas for all types of care except preschool, for which the largest enrolment per space was in large urban centres.
- The percentage of centres with vacancies was highest for rural facilities, for all service types, except child minding. For all three urban/rural categories, the percentage of facilities with vacancies was lowest for group under 3 care.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LICENSED CENTRE-BASED CHILD CARE SURVEY

For ease of reading, information pertaining to facilities licensed as “group under 36 months” will be referred to as “group under-three;” facilities licensed as “group 30 months to school age” will be termed “group three-to-five;” and facilities licensed to serve children who require additional support will be referred to as “special needs” facilities.

Return Rate

Overall, 1,224 (57.8%) of centre-based child care programs returned the 2001 Provincial Child Care Survey. This was lower than in 1997, when 63% of facilities returned their surveys, and similar to 1993 (57%). Return rates ranged from a low of 49% in Northern Interior and Upper Island to a high of 74% in Peace Liard. Return rates were highest for special needs facilities (84.2%), group under 3 facilities (76.8%), and group 3 to 5 centres (62.9%). There were lower return rates for preschools (58.7%), out-of-school facilities (51.0%) and childminding (42.6%). The results reported in this document are “best estimates” for the entire province, based on available information. The overall provincial precision of the results for the licensed centre-based survey is ± 2 percent, 19 times out of 20.

Number of Licensed Centre-Based Facilities

There were 2,116 licensed centre-based facilities in the province as of April 2001, compared to 1,844 such facilities in April 1997. This represents an increase of 14.8% over the past four years. Approximately 28% of 2001 respondents had more than one service type attached to their facility licence number.

Forty-three per cent of all facilities were licensed for preschool care, compared to 38.9% that offered out-of-school care, and 31.9% that were licensed for group 30 month to school age. Since 1997, the service type with the greatest percentage increase in the number of facilities was occasional child care at ski hill or resort (up by 75%, from eight to 14), followed by school age facilities (29%), preschools

(20%) and group 30 month to school age facilities (10%). Since 1997, the number of child minding facilities decreased by 14%, while special needs centres decreased by 65%.

Maximum Licensed Centre-Based Capacity

In this report, capacity results are reported as maximum licensed capacity, rather than actual capacity. The 2001 estimated maximum licensed capacity of 56,053 spaces represents an increase of 12% over the 1997 maximum licensed capacity of 49,980. This was less than the 37% increase in maximum licensed capacity that was found between 1993 to 1997.

A more meaningful way to compare capacity is to consider capacity relative to the population of children at the time of the provincial surveys. Between 1997 and 2001, the number of child care spaces (of all types) in the province increased from 77 per 1,000 children to 90 per 1,000 children. This 17% relative increase was larger than the 12% increase in the absolute number of spaces, due to the declining number of children aged 0 to 12 in the province in the last four years.

Enrolment

During the first week of April 2001, there were an estimated 69,315 children enrolled (full-time, part-time and drop-in) in licensed centre-based child care centres. Of these, 45% were in preschools, 21% in group 3 to 5 centres, 26% in out-of-school care, 5% in group under 3 centres, 3% in childminding, and 0.4% in special needs facilities.

In terms of absolute numbers, enrolment declined by 2.4% since 1997. The only service types that increased enrolment were out-of-school care (up by 31%) and group under 3 care (11%). The largest decreases were for special needs care, down dramatically due to Supported Child Care, and childminding. Despite the drop in absolute overall enrolment, using the relative yardstick of enrolment per

1,000 children, enrolment has been stable. In 2001, there were 111 children enrolled per 1,000 children in the province, up slightly from 109 children in 1997.

Enrolment of Kindergarten Children

Across all types of licensed centre-based child care (and weighted to full enrolment and capacity), facilities reported a total of 5,464 children in their care who attend kindergarten. Almost half (49.7%) of these kindergarten children were in out-of-school care, with 36.2% in group 3 to 5 care, 12.4% in preschools, 1.2% in childminding, and 0.5% in special needs child care facilities.

Kindergarten Programs

According to the survey responses, 21.1% of centre-based facilities ran a kindergarten program. Of those with such a program, 59% offered a part day program, and 41% had a full day program. The type of care most likely to have a kindergarten program was out-of-school – 33% of out-of-school facilities reported that they operated a kindergarten program.

Available Vacant Licensed Centre-Based Spaces

There was a decrease between 1997 and 2001 in the percentage of facilities with vacancies. This was true for all types of care except preschool, for which the percentage rose slightly. The greatest decrease was for group under 3 care – from 55.3% in 1997 to 38.2% in 2001.

Fees

Preschool fees had the largest percentage increase (approx. 16%), followed by group 3 to 5 care (9%). Out-of-school care fees dropped by an average of \$45 per month since 1997, a 19% decline. In the province as a whole, 60% of facilities charged higher fees for extended hours care, 45% charged extra for transportation, and 32% had higher fees for a meal program.

Type of Operation

Non-profit facilities operated by parent or community boards were the most common type of operation at 38.9%, closely followed by private operators at 37%. The percentage of facilities operated by Aboriginal governments, or by post-secondary institutions increased substantially, though both categories together made up less than 5% of all centre-based facilities. (The total percentage of all 11 categories of operators adds up to more than 100% because respondents were given the option of choosing more than one type of operation.)

Aboriginal Child Care Services

Forty-four centres indicated that they were located on reserves. In five Health Regions, centres located on reserves made up over 10% of all respondents in that region, including Cariboo, Peace Liard, Thompson, Northern Interior, and North Okanagan.

Special Services and Additional Services

Evening, overnight, or weekend child care were not commonly offered. However, 28% of centres provided transportation, most often for out-of-school care programs at 52%. Meal programs were offered by 21% of centres overall, most often by special needs and group under 3 programs.

Regular Closures

More than 90% of centres had regular closures, for a median of 24 days per year. The most frequent reason for a regular closure (89%) was statutory holidays, followed by Christmas break (62%), school summer break (53%), school spring break (50%), staff professional development (19%), school professional development (9%), and staff vacations (4%).

Licensing

Provincially, 70% of centres reported that they had their licence for over five years. Respondents whose facilities were licensed since 1998 were asked to report on how long it took to receive their licence. About 56% of facilities received their licences or interim permits within 30 days of completing the application. Less than 10% of facilities were required to wait more than 90 days.

Overall in the province, for those facilities that had been licensed for at least one year, 56.7% of facilities had been visited by a licensing officer in the past six months, 30.1% were visited between six months but less than one year earlier, 11% were visited between one and two years earlier, and 1.8% were visited two or more years earlier. Only 0.2% of centres open for at least one year had never received an inspection.

Child Care Subsidies

Almost all centre-based facilities had at least one subsidized child enrolled. Overall, 23.5% of all enrolled children received subsidy, an increase from 20.1% in 1997. Provincially, three-quarters (75.7%) of centres charged parents all of the difference between the subsidy amount and their actual fee; 12% charged some of the difference, while 12.4% typically did not charge any of the difference.

Supported Child Care (SCC)

Awareness of Supported Child Care (SCC) was essentially universal for all types of centre-based child care, except childminding (80%) and out of school care (90%). About 85% of facilities reported that there was a Supported Child Care Consultant or Advisor in their community.

\$107 Support Payment and/or the Supported Child Care Range Payment

Approximately 40% to 50% of facilities had at least one child who was receiving the \$107 Support Payment, with the exception of special needs centres, all of

which had at least one child with this support. Based on the weightings used to estimate the population of children in centre-based child care, there were 1,890 children who received the \$107 Support Payment and 1,752 children who received the SCC Range Payment.

Funding Assistance Program (FAP)

Ninety-eight percent of out of school centres were aware of the Funding Assistance Program (FAP), and 87% had applied for it. Of the 13% that had not applied, about two-thirds (65.5%) had chosen not to for the following reasons: funding not required; to save revenue during school closures; would cause centre to have deficit; and not sure if FAP was beneficial.

Compensation Contribution Program (CCP)

Awareness of the Compensation Contribution Program ranged from 80% to 95%, with the exceptions of childminding (62%) and preschool centres (74%). For those centres that were aware of CCP, the proportion of centres that had received this funding was approximately 87%.

Eighty-two percent of facilities receiving the CCP reported that it helped them to attract qualified staff, with the same percentage reporting that it had reduced staff turnover. Eighty percent of centres felt that CCP had stabilized parent fees. Fifty-four percent of facilities reported that CCP had helped to retain supported child care staff, while only 38% felt that CCP helped to attract supported child care staff.

Other Funding Sources

Other sources of operating funds were reported by 14.6% of centres, most often by group under 3 centres (33.5%) and special needs centres (23.1%). The most common sources of other funding were: various funds for Aboriginal child care, the Ministry of Children and Family Development, and the YMCA.

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR)

Regional differences were noted in the Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) “coverage,” as well as in the knowledge of centre-based facilities about their local CCRR programs. In five of the 20 Health Regions, 20% or more of the facilities did not know if they had a local CCRR. This was an improvement since 1997, when this was true in 10 HRs. Overall, 9.6% of facilities had no involvement with the CCRRs, less than half the rate in 1997. Involvement in various services increased across the board over the past four years, particularly in attendance at CCRR workshops and borrowing play equipment. Over half of all centres were members of their local CCRRs, and almost 60% were on the CCRR registry. Satisfaction with the CCRR services was very high for most services.

Other Sources of Support

The most commonly reported sources of support for child care facilities of all service types were: Health Authority; Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre; and Supported Child Care.

Provincially, 19.3% of centres reported receiving some sort of in-kind support. The most common types of in-kind support, in order of frequency, were: space/rent, janitorial, utilities, and maintenance. The most common sources of in-kind support, in order of frequency, were: School District/Board, religious organization, post-secondary institution, and municipality/city.

Technology

In the province as a whole, 64.8% of centres made use of a computer. This percentage varied between HRs, ranging from 40% of centres in the Northern Interior HR to 82% of centres in the North West HR.

Volunteers and Practicum Students

Childminding facilities, preschools, and special needs centres were most likely to have volunteers, while out-of-school care programs were least likely. The most common use of parent volunteers was in preschools and childminding facilities. Student volunteers were most common in special needs, group under 3 care, out-of-school care, and group 3 to 5 care centres. For all types of centre-based child care, the most common type of parental help was with field trips, while other volunteers were most likely to help with the children.

Fewer than half of centre-based facilities reported having any practicum students at the centre during the first week of April. Childminding and out-of-school care facilities were least likely to have practicum students, while group under 3 facilities were most likely to have practicum students.

Paid Staff

Due to a variety of difficulties with the way in which staff information was reported on the survey, the results regarding staff are reported as unweighted means, medians, and percentages. Data were recorded for 3,967 paid child care staff that either worked with children or did administrative work at their centres.

The overall mean hourly wages by type of care were: \$14.39 for group under 3; \$13.63 for group 3 to 5; \$12.82 for out-of-school; \$18.29 for special needs; \$13.25 for childminding; \$14.18 for preschool. Excluding special needs care, there was a relatively narrow range of average hourly wages across service types – wages for those in group under 3 care were 12% higher than for those in out of school care.

The mean hourly wages for each of five job categories were: \$17.08 for administration only; \$15.43 for child care and administration; \$14.61 for supervisors; \$13.28 for child care only; and \$11.68 for assistants.

Full-time vs. Part-time Staff

Forty-one percent of paid staff overall worked part-time (less than 30 hours per week), with the highest percentages in the part-day services, such as out-of-school care, childminding and preschool.

Gender of Paid Staff

Almost 94% of paid staff in centre-based child care programs was female. The only types of care where male workers accounted for 5% or more of the total was in out-of-school care (11%) and special needs care (5%).

Staff Benefits

Overall, 43% of staff had no additional benefits. This was highest for staff in childminding and preschool centres. By contrast, 82% of special needs centre staff, and 65% of staff in group under 3 centres received extended medical benefits. In programs where benefits were offered, 44% of all staff had access; while in the other 56% of the centres, eligibility depended on factors such as full-time/part-time status, probationary periods, and union contracts.

Weeks of Paid Vacation

The most common range of weeks of vacation was from two to three weeks. Forty-two percent of centres had a one-week range between the lowest and highest number of weeks of staff vacation, with 31% having a two-week range.

Training and Education

Given some limitations with the data, the results indicated that childminding and out-of-school care had the lowest percentage of staff with training in Early Childhood Education or related areas. Almost 70% of staff in centre-based care were registered ECEs. This proportion was highest in group under 3 care (82.4%), group 3 to 5 care (77%) and preschools (74.9%). Thirty-seven percent of

staff at group under 3 centres had Post-basic Infant/Toddler qualifications, while 93% of staff at special needs centres had Post-basic Special Needs qualifications.

Length of Time Employed at Current Facility

Overall, the median time staff had been employed at their current facility was 2 to 4 years. Special needs staff were the most stable, as 40% had worked at the same facility for at least five years, while out of school care had the largest proportion of staff employed for less than one year at the current centre.

Staff Turnover

Overall, 22% of paid staff left their employment at the facility in the previous 12 months. Of those staff that left, 20% were expected to return. Out-of-school care programs had the highest turnover rate at 26%, and special needs programs had the lowest at 13%.

Supported Child Care Staff

Overall, 33% of centres reported having staff whose wages were paid through the Supported Child Care Range Payment authorization or contract. The highest percentage was for special needs centres (55%), followed by group 3 to 5 centres (38%), preschools (38%), out of school facilities (37%), group under 3 centres (34%), and childminding centres (14%). Over the province, centres with such staff had a mean of 0.9 staff employed by the centre, 0.7 staff employed by a Supported Child Care Agency, and 0.07 staff employed elsewhere.

Sixty-three percent of centres with SCC aides reported that the support they received was sufficient to meet the needs of the centre's children.

Other People Employed by the Centre

Twenty-eight percent of centres reported that they employed one or more janitors who worked an average of 10.0 hours per week. Only 4 % of centres reported employing a cook, for an average of 22.1 hours per week.

Unionized Facilities

Of the facilities that responded to the survey, 15.9% were unionized, a small increase from 1997. The highest proportion of unionized facilities was 72.3% for special needs centres, followed by 32.3% for group under 3 programs, 16.3% for group 3 to 5 centres, 14.5% for out of school centres, 8.5% for preschools, and 2.9% for childminding facilities.

Major Themes of Respondents' Comments - Centre-based Child Care Survey

In response to the question: "Do you have any comments you would like to make regarding topics covered in this survey (e.g., fees, subsidies, licensing, supports)?" open-ended comments were made on 326 centre-based surveys. The three most common themes of the comments were: Supported Child Care (23%); subsidy (21%); and FAP (13.2%).

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LICENSED FAMILY CHILD CARE SURVEY

Return Rates

Overall, 1,410 licensed family child care (FCC) programs (59.2%) returned the 2001 Provincial Child Care Survey. This return rate was lower than the 65% return achieved in the 1997 Provincial Survey. The highest return rates were for Coast Garibaldi and Cariboo, both over 70%. The only Health Region with a return rate under 50% was North West, at 47%. Provincially, the overall precision of the results of the family child care survey is $\pm 2\%$, 19 times out of 20.

Number of Licensed Family Child Care Facilities

As of April 2001, there were 2,382 licensed FCC facilities in B.C. This represents increases of: 5% since 1997; 51% since 1993; and 121% in the past 10 years.

Maximum Licensed Capacity

As of April 2001, there were 16,555 licensed FCC spaces. This represents an increase of 5% from the 15,746 spaces counted in 1997, and a 124% increase in the 7,391 licensed FCC spaces that existed in 1991. The greatest increases in FCC spaces in the past four years were in the Vancouver, Burnaby and Thompson regions.

Changes in the number of facilities or spaces per 1,000 children may be quite different from changes in absolute numbers, depending upon population trends over time. In B.C. as a whole, there were 27 licensed FCC spaces per 1,000 children in 2001, up from 24 per 1,000 in 1997. This represents an additional three child care spaces for every 1,000 children in the province, a 12.5% gain between 1997 and 2001.

Enrolment

As of April 2001, 18,551 children were enrolled in licensed FCC in B.C. Overall, there was an increase of 9% in the enrolment of children in licensed FCC since 1997,

representing 1,551 more children in this type of care. Fifty per cent of children were enrolled full-time (30 or more hours per week), 37% part-time (10 to 29 hours per week), and 13% short stay (under 10 hours per week). These proportions were up slightly from 1997, when 47% of children were enrolled full-time and 39% were enrolled part-time.

Fifty-one percent of licensed FCC providers had one or more of their own children enrolled in their program, with an average of 1.72 own children enrolled. There were similar numbers of own children across the ages of 2 to 10, with relatively fewer younger and older own children.

Fees

Infant fees in 2001 averaged over \$29 per day, and toddler fees averaged just over \$28 per day. Compared to 1997, fees increased by approximately 10% for all age groups, except for school age children, whose fees increased by over 25% to almost \$4 per hour. The highest mean fees were in the Lower Mainland regions: Vancouver, North Shore and Burnaby, each with mean infant fees of \$35 per day or more. The lowest fees in the province were found in the East and West Kootenay and North and South Okanagan regions.

Days Open Per Week

Almost all licensed FCC providers were open from Monday to Friday, with only slightly fewer on Monday and Friday. Few providers were open on weekends, though slightly more than in 1997. Only 6.3% were open more than five days per week, compared to 3.7% open less than five days and 90% open five days per week.

Hours Open Per Day/Week

Licensed FCC facilities were open for an average of 10.13 hours per day, slightly less than the mean of 10.25 hours per day in 1997. On a weekly basis, the majority of

facilities were open between 45 and 50 hours per week, however 39% were open more than 50 hours per week.

Program Closures

Ninety per cent of licensed FCC facilities had regular yearly closures, for an average of 22.1 days per year. Reasons for regular closures, in order of frequency were: caregiver vacation (72.8% of caregivers), statutory holidays (72.7%), Christmas (36.8%), summer (14.5%), school spring break (11.8%), caregiver professional development (5.7%), and school professional development days (1.5%).

Thirty percent of licensed FCC facilities had experienced temporary unscheduled closures in the past year. The reasons for these temporary closures, in order of frequency were: personal reasons (54.2%), other (35.7%), low enrolment (3.8%), change of location (2.1%), insufficient or unqualified staff (0.4%), and financial reasons (0.2%).

Intentions to Remain as a Licensed Family Child Care Provider

Asked how much longer they planned to continue providing licensed FCC, respondents reported: 49.4% planned to continue for more than three years, 29% did not know, 17.5% planned to stay for one to three years, and only 4.5% intended to leave this type of work in less than one year. These proportions were almost exactly the same as the results from licensed FCC caregivers in 1997.

Licensing

Almost half of responding facilities had been licensed for more than five years. Only 2% of facilities reported receiving their licence or interim permit in the last six months. The licensed FCC providers who were licensed in 1998 or later reported that after all paperwork was complete: 44% of caregivers received their licence or interim permit within one month, with 87% getting theirs within three months.

Of the licensed FCC facilities that were in existence for at least one year at the time of the survey, over half had been inspected within the previous six months, and 84% had been inspected within the previous year.

Vacancies and Turnover

In spite of the provincial enrolment to capacity ratio of 1.12, 40% of licensed FCC facilities reported that they were not fully enrolled during the first week of April 2001. This proportion was less than in 1997, when 48.4% of programs were not full. In total, there were an estimated 1,263 vacant full-time spaces, 1,045 vacant part-time spaces, and 692 vacant school-age spaces in licensed FCC facilities. Taken together, there was an average of 3.1 vacant spaces (median = 2) for each facility with vacancies. Drop-in children were accommodated by 67.5% of licensed FCC caregivers.

Child Care Subsidies

Provincially, 66.7% of facilities reported having at least one subsidized child enrolled during the reference week. This percentage is in keeping with the trend of a slow increase over time, as the proportion was 65.7% in 1997 and 64.3% in 1993. Of the 18,551 children enrolled, 4,261 (23.0%) were reported as subsidized, exactly the same as four years earlier. Providers reported that 65% of children were receiving the maximum subsidy, and 35% were receiving partial subsidy.

Almost three-quarters (74%) of caregivers reported charging parents all of the difference between their fee and the subsidy amount, while 13.9% charged some of the difference, and 11.9% did not charge any of the difference.

Supported Child Care

Eighty-two per cent of licensed FCC providers reported that they were aware of SCC (up from 75% in 1997) and 77% reported that they knew who to call in the local community for information about supported child care. When asked in 2001 whether there was a SCC Consultant or Coordinator serving their community, 60% answered

yes, and 39% didn't know, compared to 1997, when 54% answered yes, and 44% didn't know.

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR)

In the province as a whole, 97.8% of licensed FCC providers reported that there was a Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) serving their community. Overall, only 1.7% of facilities with a local CCRR reported having no involvement, compared to 3.4% in 1997. Ninety percent of licensed FCC providers were on the caregiver registry and 93% got their liability insurance through the group plan offered by CCRRs. Eighty-seven percent of FCC providers had received written materials from the CCRR and 86% had attended their workshops. Sixty-three percent had borrowed equipment. Licensed FCC providers rated their satisfaction with nine different types of CCRR services. At least 95% of providers were satisfied with most services.

Infant/Toddler Incentive Grant (ITIG)

Almost 94% of licensed FCC providers were aware of the Infant/Toddler Incentive Grant (ITIG). Provincially, 80.5% of licensed FCC caregivers reported having ever received the ITIG. The top five ways in which providers who had received the ITIG had used the grant money were for: equipment (48.7%), toys/books (26.8%), supplies (13.9%), operating costs (8.5%), and repairs/renovations (7.5%).

Other Sources of Support

Licensed FCC providers were asked to choose from a list of organizations (other than CCRRs) that have provided them with support in the past year. Twenty-seven percent of the facilities did not choose any organization. Of those that did choose at least one organization, 72.4% chose the regional HA, followed by a local family child care organization (27.6%), the Western Canada Family Child Care Association (22.2%), Supported Child Care (21.9%), the Infant Development Program (13.5%), Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre (13.4%), and Early Childhood Educators of BC (9.6%).

Technology

Over three-quarters (76.4%) of licensed FCC caregivers in the province reported that they had a computer. The top support for using a computer for caregivers without computers was funding to purchase hardware and software (57.4%), followed by computer/software training (51.1%). Of those without a computer, 21.4% had no interest in using one.

Paid Staff and Volunteers

Thirty-one percent of all licensed FCC programs reported that they had paid staff in addition to themselves, which was similar to the results in 1997. Of those providers with paid staff, 66% had one other staff member, and 34% had two or more. Approximately 48% of paid staff were family members of the provider, and 4.5% were parents of enrolled children. Only 6.3% of paid staff worked full-time, compared to 31.3% that worked part-time, and 62.4% that worked casually.

Overall, 27.5% of licensed FCC providers reported having volunteer or student help in the past year. The majority of these (51.7%) had one volunteer; 30% had two volunteers, and 19% had three or more. The volunteers/students at licensed FCC facilities were composed of: 46.8% family members of the provider, 9.7% parents of enrolled children, 25.3% high school students, and 18.2% college or university students.

Financial Information

Almost 73% of providers' revenues came from parent fees. Additionally, 22.0% of revenues came from subsidies, 3.3% from the grants such as the Infant Toddler Incentive Grant, and 1.8% from other sources. Licensed FCC providers estimated that the average (mean) percentage of revenue that was used for expenses on the program was 57.3% (median 55%), compared to a mean of 55.8% (median 50%) in 1997. Overall, 85.7% of providers reported that they owned their homes, while 13.5% rented or leased their homes.

Age and Gender of Providers

The average age of licensed FCC providers was between 35 and 44 years. Caregivers aged 45 and older made up over 33% of the licensed FCC workforce in 2001, compared to 26% in 1997. Male providers accounted for only 0.2% of all licensed FCC providers.

Training and Education of Providers

Almost all licensed FCC providers had their First Aid, while 75% had taken some CCRR workshops or courses. Over 65% had taken either an introductory family child care course, such as Good Beginnings, or the 150 hour family child care training course. Seventeen percent of licensed FCC providers were Registered ECE, with another 9.2% were either in the process of taking courses or lacked only the 500 hours of work experience.

Professional Development and Work Experience

Of the 86.4% of licensed FCC providers that indicated the number of hours they had spent in workshops, conferences, and in other professional development activities in the past year, 89.2% had participated in one or more workshops, 28.6% in one or more conferences, and 31.2% had experienced some other professional development.

Major Themes of Respondents' Comments - Family Child Care Survey

Five-hundred-seventeen licensed FCC providers made open-ended comments at the end of their surveys. The three most common themes of the comments were: subsidy rates (23%); licensing / regulation (17.2%); and universal child care program (15.5%).

2001 PROVINCIAL CHILD CARE SURVEY

FINAL REPORT

BACKGROUND

The Government of British Columbia has conducted surveys of licensed child care programs every few years, since 1991. The 2001 Provincial Child Care Survey represents the fourth in this series. These surveys have sought to gather up-to-date information about child care that would help to inform child care policy planning and program development. Collecting data over time using similar questions has also enabled the government to track provincial and regional trends, such as changes in the number of child care facilities and spaces, fees, wages and use of government programs.

In May 1991, the first in a series of provincial surveys of all licensed child care facilities in British Columbia was undertaken by B.C. STATS (Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations), under the direction of Women's Programs, Ministry of Government Services. Separate survey questionnaires were developed for licensed centre-based and licensed family child care programs. The purpose of this survey was to "get accurate information about the child care community to know facts about the availability, accessibility and affordability of child care in British Columbia" (cover letter on 1991 survey). Questions on these surveys addressed: licensing and enrolment, services offered, child care needs of the community, financial and administrative information, fee structure, subsidization, child care related training, staffing information, volunteers and supplemental help, parent involvement, working conditions, the Daycare Support Program, and personal information and preferences. B.C. STATS conducted the data collection, data entry and data analysis phases of this project. In the spring of 1992, a number of provincial tables were produced, as well as profiles of each of the 22 Local Health Units in the province.

In June 1993, the Child Care Branch, Ministry of Women's Equality, conducted a second provincial child care survey. The Unit for Child Care Research, School of Child and

Youth Care at the University of Victoria was contracted to undertake this survey. All licensed family and centre-based child care programs were included. The purpose of this survey was to "update (the 1991) information...to support future policy development and to assist with the evaluation of the effectiveness of ongoing programs and initiatives" (cover letter on 1993 survey). The surveys were shorter than in 1991, focusing on the following key areas: fees and subsidies, financial information, First Nations and multicultural children and families served, licensing and enrolment, staffing information, the Child Care Support Programs, and personal information.

In April 1997, a third Provincial Child Care Survey was conducted by the Child Care Branch, Ministry for Children and Families during a period when the ministry was testing innovative ways of delivering services to children and families across the province through the Canada/British Columbia Child Care Strategic Initiative. Again, the Unit for Child Care Research at the University of Victoria was successful in its bid to undertake this survey. The 1997 survey focused on a number of key areas, including: the number of children in licensed child care, child care costs, the transition to Supported Child Care, and involvement with licensing and Child Care Support Programs. The final survey results included a breakdown by the 20 Health Regions, an analysis of urban/rural differences and general themes of written comments. An abbreviated report of the "Survey Highlights" was produced and broadly distributed.

In January 2001, the Child Care Branch, Ministry of Social Development and Economic Security (MSDES) (now Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services MCAWS) tendered a Request for Proposals to undertake a 2001 Provincial Child Care Survey. The 2001 Survey is intended to provide an up-to-date database of child care services in BC during the week of April 2 to 6, 2001. Two separate surveys were administered, one for licensed centre-based child care programs, and one for licensed family child care programs. The 2001 Survey captures much of the same information as the previous child care surveys, but was updated to ensure relevancy to recent developments in child care in British Columbia. For example, the 2001 Provincial Child Care Survey includes questions about the current Compensation Contribution Program, and the Funding Assistance Program. However much of the information

gathered is comparable over time with previous provincial child care surveys, for the purpose of analyzing trends, including, but not limited to: the number and types of facilities and spaces, enrolment, fees, subsidies, staffing and use of government programs. As in previous years, the data have been analyzed both at the provincial level and by the old 20 Health regional divisions. (At the time the 2001 survey was undertaken, the Ministry of Health Services was operating with 52 regional Health Authorities.)

Part of the context for the 2001 Provincial Child Care Survey was the provincial government's (then New Democratic Party) intention to work toward a comprehensive publicly funded child care program ("Child Care B.C."). Under the Early Childhood Development Accord, B.C. will receive \$291 million in federal transfer payments over five years, beginning in fiscal year 2001/2002. The government at the time intended to use this federal funding to: move forward on its Child Care B.C. initiative; establish community-based early childhood programs; and expand access to therapies for children with special needs.

Following the release of a discussion paper entitled "Building a Better Future for B.C.'s Kids" in the fall of 1999, the (then) government announced "Child Care B.C." in the spring of 2000. As a first step towards a comprehensive, publicly-funded child care program, the provincial government implemented the "Funding Assistance Program for Out-of-School Care" (FAP-OOS) and the "Expansion Grant - OOS." This first phase of "Child Care B.C." was intended to fund up to 19,000 existing licensed, centre-based care spaces for before- and after-school care, including kindergarten children.

At the time that the 2001 Provincial Child Care Survey was undertaken, the Ministry of Social Development and Economic Security (MSDES) had primary responsibility for child care. MSDES was responsible for a range of programs and services to assist communities in developing quality, affordable, accessible child care for children and families across the province. The ministry's mandate for child care programs and services came from the B.C. Benefits (Child Care) Act. MSDES was responsible for the following regionally managed programs and services: Child Care Subsidy Program, Child Care Resource and Referral Programs, and One Stop Access Centres. MSDES was

also responsible for the following centrally managed programs and services: “Child Care B.C.,” all grants programs (e.g. Compensation Contribution Program, Infant/Toddler Incentive Grant, Emergency Repair, Replacement and Relocation Grant, Facilities and Equipment Grant), services offered by Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre, and the B.C. Association of Child Care Services. The Ministry for Children and Families was responsible for Supported Child Care. The Ministry of Health and Ministry Responsible for Seniors was responsible for licensing of child care programs under the *Community Care Facilities Act* and Child Care Regulation.

During the time that the survey was undertaken, a provincial election took place in May 2001, and the BC Liberal Party was elected with a majority government. The Child Care Branch was moved to the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services (MCAWS). The Ministry for Children and Families became the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), retaining responsibility for Support Child Care. The Ministry of Health was renamed the Ministry of Health Services (MOHS), and remained responsible for licensing of child care facilities.

GOAL

The goal of the 2001 Provincial Child Care Survey is to provide an up-to-date database to inform child care policy planning and program development and to assess the effectiveness of current programs in order to determine the need for service delivery improvements.

OBJECTIVES

There are four primary objectives of the 2001 Provincial Child Care Survey:

- to develop a 2001 survey of licensed child care providers based on a refinement of the 1997 survey tools;
- to carry out the surveys;
- to analyze the results of the surveys; and

- to provide a comprehensive report of the findings of the surveys in both paper and electronic format.

Data from the 2001 Provincial Child Care Survey provides a "snap-shot" of child care services during the survey period. The 2001 data are compared with data from previous child care surveys to analyze trends, including, but not limited to: the number of child care facilities and spaces by service type, enrolment, fees, and use of government programs. As in previous years, the data were analyzed at the provincial level and by the 20 old Health Regions.

2001 PROVINCIAL CHILD CARE SURVEY STEERING COMMITTEE

The 2001 Provincial Child Care Steering Committee was made up of the contract manager from Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services (MCAWS), the Executive Director of the Child Care Branch, MCAWS, the Director of the Child Care Policy Branch, MCAWS, and representatives from the Ministry of Children and Family Development (because of their supported child care responsibilities), the Ministry of Health Services (MOHS), Community Care Facilities Branch (because of their responsibilities for licensing child care programs), and the Applied Research and Evaluation Branch, Ministry of Human Resources.

The Steering Committee met once to review the content of the 1997 Provincial Child Care Survey and to recommend revisions and additions to the questions. Individual members of the Steering Committee worked with the contractors to refine questions pertaining to their areas (e.g., Supported Child Care, and licensing). The Steering Committee was provided with project updates via email during the term of the contract, and in turn provided feedback and/or assistance as required. The Steering Committee reviewed an initial draft of the final report on the project and provided input and feedback for some revisions and additional analyses.

CONTRACT

In January 2001, the Unit for Child Care Research at the School of Child and Youth Care, University of Victoria, submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Social

Development and Economic Security, in response to a Request for Proposals to undertake the 2001 Provincial Child Care Survey.

The Unit for Child Care Research was awarded the contract to undertake the 2001 Provincial Child Care Survey in February, 2001. Work on the survey began immediately with a meeting of the Steering Committee on February 13, 2001. The contract included two surveys, one for licensed centre-based, and one for licensed family child care programs. The Unit for Child Care Research had previous experience working on the 1997 and 1993 provincial child care surveys. The research team included Theresa Hunter, the Co-coordinator of the Unit for Child Care Research as the Principal Investigator and coordinator of the project. Barry Forer, M.A. Research Consultant, provided technical expertise to the project, including survey composition and design, verification and cleaning of databases, all data analyses, interpretation, production of tables, comparative analyses, and writing technical aspects of reports. Meg Thompson, B.S.W., provided half-time administrative and research assistance to the project.

METHODOLOGY

Population and Sample (Mailing Lists)

The first task in conducting the provincial surveys of licensed child care facilities in British Columbia was to construct two complete, accurate, and up-to-date sampling frames - one of all currently licensed centre-based child care programs, and a corresponding list of all licensed family child care programs.

To accomplish this task, the Community Care Facilities Branch of the MOHS gathered up-to-date electronic mailing lists of licensed child care programs from the regional Health Authorities in February 2001. The MOHS had reorganized and amalgamated some of their Local Health Regions into Health Authorities (HA), however licensed child care programs were still identified according to their location in the older Health Regions (HR). This was helpful to the survey project because of the desire to compare current data with data from previous surveys, that had been grouped according to the 20 HRs. The mailing list was cleaned by a program analyst at the MOHS for duplicates

of the licence number. The final mailing list of licensed programs included the licence number, the name of the program, the mailing address, and one type of service code (e.g. Group Day Care Under 36 months; Preschool) for programs in all regions, except Vancouver and Richmond, where no service codes were given.

The final sampling frame for the centre-based programs was all licensed child care programs. Two issues arose regarding the final mailing list. First, some centre-based programs had more than one type of service on the same licence, but only one service code was listed in the database (thus not accurately reflecting the variety of service types). Second, some facilities had more than one licence for the various service types. As a result, some facilities received one survey for all of their services, while other facilities received several surveys for each of their various services, depending on how many licences they held. Project staff answered many telephone inquiries from programs that received more than one survey, and paid close attention to tracking survey returns to ensure accuracy. This issue did not affect the list of licensed family child care programs.

Sampling Strategy

The basic decision regarding sampling was whether all facilities should be sent surveys (census), or only a sample of facilities. The most important consideration in this decision has to do with the reliability of the results, given the breakdowns of the data both by region and by service type. Essentially, the finer the breakdowns, the smaller each sub-population is, and the greater the proportion of respondents necessary to obtain the most reliable results. In past provincial child care surveys, results were broken down both by region and by service type. For comparisons with past surveys, and more importantly for optimal utility for each region, it was important to continue with the same breakdowns by region and service type for the 2001 Provincial Child Care Survey.

An example to consider regarding reliability of results would be the largest sub-population, as it would require the smallest sampling proportion. According to Table 4 in the 1997 Provincial Child Care Survey report, the largest number of centre-based

facilities for any region/service type combination was 111, for preschools in South Fraser Valley HR. For that sub-population, a sample of 86 would be necessary to be sure 19 times out of 20 that the sample reflected the whole population, plus or minus 5%. Since a sample of 86 includes such a large proportion of the whole population, and given that some non-responses are certainly unavoidable, it would be best to send the survey to everyone in the sub-population. Since all other region/service type combinations are smaller than the example, an even larger proportion would be needed for the same reliability. Therefore, the best overall sampling strategy for centre-based facilities was determined to be a census. This decision was not affected by the increase in the number of centre-based facilities (approximately 12%) between 1997 and 2001.

For licensed family facilities there is only one service type, and number of programs in each region is larger. In 1997, the largest population of family child care programs was 283 in the South Fraser Valley HR. A sample of about 165 would be necessary to be sure 19 times out of 20 that the sample reflected the whole population, plus or minus 5%. Clearly, for the five or six regions with more than 150 licensed family providers, a sample rather than a census would be justifiable. However, for most regions, the population of licensed family providers is small, and a census would be most appropriate. Given the relatively small number of regions where sampling could be done, the unavoidable non-response to the survey, and the precedents of previous Provincial Child Care Surveys, it was agreed that a census approach would be taken with licensed family child care providers in all regions.

Survey Development

Two surveys (centre-based and family) were developed in consultation with the 2001 Provincial Child Care Survey Steering Committee. It was expected that the 2001 surveys would be a refinement of the 1997 surveys, with many items unchanged from four years ago. Some items were necessarily altered or dropped because of changes in government funding programs (e.g., Compensation Contribution Program instead of Wage Supplement Initiative), and new questions were added to include new programs (e.g., Funding Assistance Program for Out-of-School Care - FAP-OOS). Some questions

were added or reworded to obtain more detailed information. For example, questions were asked about Aboriginal child care located both on- and off-reserve.

The following guidelines were used to develop the surveys:

- i. Past experience in 1991, 1993 and 1997 with item topics and formatting helped to inform the development of the 2001 surveys. The Comparative Analysis of the 1991 and 1993 Provincial Surveys (Unit for Child Care Research, 1996) critically examined each item, and made suggestions for improvements to the surveys. These suggestions were incorporated into the 1997 surveys. Similar examination of the response patterns for the 1997 surveys was conducted to identify items in need of further development. However, it was clear from the 1997 Provincial Child Care Survey report that the survey items and formatting had generally worked quite well. As a result, the same useful items were repeated (as appropriate) in the 2001 survey to allow direct comparisons with the past results.
- ii. Every effort was made to ensure that the surveys were user-friendly. One important consideration was the length of the survey, which could have a significant impact on return rates. Therefore, survey items were prioritized through discussions with the Steering Committee. In addition, the physical layout of the surveys was considered to be a critical aspect of its user-friendliness. The lay-out of the 2001 surveys was similar to the 1997 surveys, to create a sense of continuity for centre supervisors and family child care providers who received the previous provincial surveys.
- iii. Prior to distribution, the surveys were pretested with programs representing all types of child care services. Several child care providers from centre-based and family child care programs in Victoria and the Lower Mainland were asked to participate in the pretests. The family child care survey was pretested with six family child care programs. The centre survey was pretested with nine centres that varied in size and complexity. Participants were given copies of the draft surveys to complete and to make comments on. All individuals who participated in the piloting of the surveys were interviewed to clarify and expand on their feedback regarding

content, format, item construction, and flow of the surveys. The draft surveys were revised based on feedback from the pilot.

Timing

The timing of the 2001 Provincial Child Care Survey was viewed as critical to its success. Some child care programs, particularly preschool programs begin to wind down in the late spring. The 1997 Provincial Child Care Survey was disseminated in April, and the researchers had some difficulty obtaining the desired response rate from some sectors. It was hoped that the 2001 Provincial Child Care Survey would ideally be mailed out in March, with a return date not later than the middle of April, 2001.

The 2001 Provincial Child Care Survey contract was signed on February 12, 2001. This compressed the time available to prepare for the survey distribution. It took some time to consult, draft, pretest, revise, lay-out, print and prepare the surveys for mail out. The Steering Committee met on February 13 2001, with follow-up meetings and input obtained from the MCFD and the MOHS. Piloting of the surveys was done in mid-March, and revisions were then made to some questions. Once the final survey questions were determined, graphic designers completed the lay-out of the surveys. The surveys and envelopes were then printed and forwarded to a mail-handling company for preparation, such as labeling and stuffing in envelopes. All of these activities took time, and while the surveys were ready for mail-out just prior to the long weekend in April, it was decided that a better strategy would be to wait until after the holiday. As a result, the surveys were mailed out on April 17, 2001, with a return date of May 4.

Human Research Ethics Committee Review

An application was made to the Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) at the University of Victoria to undertake the 2001 Provincial Child Care Survey. A similar application was submitted to, and approved by this committee for the 1997 Provincial Child Care Survey. The Human Research Ethics Committee provides ethical review of all activities involving human subjects conducted through the University of Victoria. "The mandate of HREC is to ensure that all human research is conducted in accordance

with the highest ethical standards and that the public, the researchers, and the University are all protected from harm. University policies and procedures are designed to comply with Tri-Council Policy Statement on the Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans.” (Reference: <http://www.research.uvic.ca/Committees/>).

Both the centre and family surveys included one full page of information regarding participant’s rights and researcher’s responsibilities regarding the survey. Anonymity of the programs was ensured by affixing a code number on the back of the surveys. The code number identified the provincial region that the program was located in, and a randomly assigned number. Only the research team had access to the list that linked the program name and licence number to the code number. (Nonetheless, some respondents removed the code numbers on the back of the survey rendering them unusable without the identifying information.)

The original surveys belong to and will be sent to the provincial government when the project is completed. However the government will not have any information to identify the individual programs that participated in the project.

Advertising of Surveys

A one-page flyer advertising the 2001 Provincial Child Care Survey was developed and mailed to all licensed child care programs in March 2001, prior to mailing the surveys. This method was shown in previous experience to be effective in ensuring that child care providers were aware of the survey. It also provided a means of checking the accuracy of mailing addresses. The addresses on returned flyers were checked and corrected prior to mailing out the survey.

All of the Health Authority (HA) offices and Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) offices, and the provincial child care associations (e.g., Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre, B.C. Aboriginal Child Care Association, B.C. Association of Child Care Services, Early Childhood Educators of BC, Western Canada Family Child Care Association) also received copies of the flyer with a request to post them in their offices and to include them in their newsletters, and journals as appropriate, given the timing of the survey.

Responding to Questions About the Survey

A toll-free line was set up at the Unit for Child Care Research, University of Victoria at the start of the project (from mid-February to the end of August, 2001). The telephone number was included on all advertising in advance of the distribution of the surveys. The number also appeared on the surveys and the reminder cards. Project team members were available to answer telephone (or written) queries that arose throughout the duration of the project.

Distribution of Surveys

In mid-April 2001, all licensed centre-based and licensed family child care programs on the sampling list were mailed a 2001 Provincial Child Care survey with an enclosed business reply envelope addressed to the Unit for Child Care Research. Recipients were given a return date of May 4 2001, about two weeks after the date they were expected to receive it. If any surveys were returned as undeliverable, the appropriate HA office was contacted to establish whether the program was open or closed, and if open, to obtain the correct mailing addresses for the program. Surveys were re-sent immediately. If telephone calls were received from child care programs requesting additional copies of the surveys, these were also mailed out immediately. A package of 48 surveys was mailed directly to the General Manager of the YMCA programs in Vancouver, as it was more convenient for them to receive the surveys this way.

Follow-up With Non-respondents

In mid-May, one month after the initial survey mail-out, reminder cards were mailed to all non-respondents. At the end of May, all non-respondents that we had still not heard from received a telephone follow-up call requesting them to return the survey, or offering to send another survey if the original one was lost or thrown away. If only a telephone answering machine was reached, a message was left with the pertinent information, including the toll-free number and a request to return our call, or to return the survey. Notes on the telephone conversations were kept in order to track such things as program closures, and refusals to participate. Licensed family child care providers who had not responded were also given the option of completing the survey

over the telephone. (The centre-based survey was more complex and difficult to complete over the telephone, so only a few were completed this way.) Follow-up calls were directed first, to preschool programs, because they tend to close down for the summer, and second, to those regions where the return rates were the lowest. However in the end, attempts were made to reach virtually all non-respondents.

Return Rates

Two goals had been set for the 2001 Provincial Child Care survey return rates: an overall 70% return rate for both the centre-based facilities and licensed family providers, and a minimum 65% return rate for each region. This would have been an improvement over the 1997 return rates, which were 63.1% overall for centre-based facilities (lowest regional return rate 44.7%) and 65.0% overall for licensed family child care providers (lowest regional return rate 36.4%). The intended earlier timing (March vs. April) of the 2001 Survey was expected to improve the return rates.

The process of developing and preparing the 2001 survey for mail out took longer than desired, although it was just two months from the start date of the project to the mail out date (February 12 – April 17). The later than desired mail out date of April 17, set up a similar situation regarding timing to the one encountered with the 1997 survey. When follow-up telephone calls were made to preschools, we were told numerous times that either they had not received the survey at all (due to parent boards or school administrators picking up the mail) or that the program was so busy at the end of April to early May, they did not have time to complete the survey during that period of time. Preschool programs tend to close between mid-May and early June, so a number of programs were unreachable by telephone, or unable to complete the survey.

An unanticipated impediment to the survey return rates was the Canada Post mail system. In early May we began receiving numerous phone calls from child care programs that received the survey either close to or after the return date of May 4 2001. This problem appeared to be particularly prevalent in the Lower Mainland area. In several cases it took more than three weeks for programs to receive the survey. When we began making follow-up telephone calls to non-respondents, we heard from

numerous programs that they never received the survey, even though they may have received the flyer and/or the reminder card. This was particularly puzzling because identical mailing lists were used for the second and third mailings. The numerous “undelivered” surveys were never returned to us, even though “Return Postage Guaranteed” had been printed on the envelope. Most disturbing and frustrating of all was the number of programs that reported they had completed the survey and returned it in the postage paid envelope, but it had not been received. The final cut-off date for survey returns was extended to the end of August 2001. By this date, there were 82 documented and verified cases of completed surveys lost in the mail. Canada Post was unable to identify the sources of the problems, and did not locate the undelivered surveys and lost returns.

The various challenges faced by the project in getting the survey out to child care providers resulted in lower than expected initial return rates in May 2001 (42.4% for family; 36.0% for centres). Many more surveys had to be mailed out, and a much higher number of follow-up telephone calls were required than originally anticipated. Several surveys were completed over the telephone for the convenience of child care providers.

Overall, the final return rates were 59.2% for family child care and 57.8% for centres. Unfortunately a number of programs removed the identification code on the back of the survey, and they were unusable. Every effort was made to match the returned, unlabelled surveys to programs when possible. In the end, 35 surveys (10 centre and 25 family) were unusable because there was no identification code on them. The overall provincial precision of the results for the licensed centre-based survey is ± 2 percent, 19 times out of 20.

Data Entry

Separate data files were kept for licensed family facilities and centre-based programs. A coding strategy and a database template had already been created for the 1997 survey, that helped to simplify the coding process for the 2001 surveys. A professional data entry company was hired to enter the close-ended items, while the open-ended responses were coded by the project team. A logbook was kept of all the open-ended

responses to enable these responses to be coded in a consistent way for the purpose of content analysis. Basic data available from the regional HA offices' databases, such as licence number, service types, and maximum licensed capacity were recorded for all licensed centre-based programs. These data were useful for checking the extent of any disagreements between the official regional data (i.e., service types, capacity) and respondents' reports.

Data Cleaning and Analysis

After data entry was completed, the data were cleaned and analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). Several steps were used in cleaning the data, including looking for unlikely or impossible assigned values, checking for consistency in the number of responses to "skip" items, and reviewing a sample of data records for accuracy. Before the results were analyzed, the data were weighted (described later in this section). B.C. STATS was consulted for their latest provincial population figures for children ages 0 to 12 years, so that overall enrolment and capacity results could be expressed not only in absolute numbers, but also relative to the number of children in the province.

The particular analyses done on the 2001 provincial surveys was similar to and consistent with those done for the 1991, 1993, and 1997 provincial surveys. Thus, weighted frequencies and percentages were calculated for variables such as fees, subsidy, type of operation, support services, and so on. Results were broken down by 20 Health Regions (HR), service type, urban vs. rural, Funding Assistance Program participants vs. others, and other breakdowns where appropriate. Many variables were used for cross-tabulation. The comments made by respondents at the end of the surveys were also a rich source of qualitative information that complemented the quantitative information. The open-ended comments were recorded verbatim and analyzed into content themes.

Population Statistics

There are two ways in which the population figures for children under 13 are important for the 2001 Provincial Child Care Survey. First, these statistics indicate which areas of

the province had higher or lower rates of child population growth or decline since the last provincial survey in 1997. Second, these statistics can be used to calculate relative (rather than absolute) capacity and enrolment results. When capacity and enrolment results are expressed in relative units of “per 1,000 children,” direct comparisons can then be made between regions, or for the same region over time.

As was the case in 1997, demographers at BC STATS were consulted to provide population statistics at the time of the provincial survey. Two of their data sets were used to determine the population of children as of April, 2001: the July 2000 estimates, and the July 2001 projections. From each of these data sets, population figures were provided for each age of child from 0 to 12, for each HR in the province. The population as of April 2001 was interpolated by calculating 75% of the distance between the July 2000 and July 2001 figures. The resulting population estimates for all children aged 0 to 12 are shown in Table 1, along with the percentage changes from four years ago. Unlike the period from 1993 to 1997, when child population numbers were rising in almost every region of the province, the last four years have seen declines everywhere except Vancouver and Burnaby.

Several subsets of the total child population were also calculated – the population of children under three years, or children 30 months to school age, children six to 12, etc. The appropriate subset was used when calculating relative capacity and enrolment for each type of care. For example, for licensed family child care, the population of children 0 to 12 was used, while for licensed out-of-school care, the appropriate population was children 6 to 12 years old.

Table 1 Population of Children Under 13 in 2001 vs. 1997, by Health Region			
<u>Health Region</u>	<u>Population 2001</u>	<u>Population 1997</u>	<u>Percentage Change</u>
East Kootenay	12,903	13,948	-7.5
*West Kootenay -Boundary	11,606	13,718	-15.4
North Okanagan	17,868	20,178	-11.4
**South Okanagan Similkameen	33,178	34,967	-5.1
Thompson	21,721	23,897	-9.1
Fraser Valley	44,893	46,823	-3.9
South Fraser Valley	103,676	103,907	-0.2
Simon Fraser	53,810	60,978	-11.8
Coast Garibaldi	12,126	13,441	-9.8
Central Van. Island	36,932	40,226	-8.2
*Upper Island/ Central Coast	20,105	22,746	-11.6
Cariboo	13,625	14,598	-6.7
North West	18,444	20,646	-10.7
Peace Liard	14,191	14,612	-2.9
Northern Interior	24,744	26,369	-6.2
Vancouver	67,301	63,979	+5.2
Burnaby	25,932	23,863	+8.7
North Shore	24,659	25,998	-5.2
Richmond	22,685	24,449	-7.2
Capital	43,543	47,258	-7.9
B.C. Total	624,028	651,100	-4.2

*Abbreviated throughout the remainder of the report

Weighting the Raw Data

In survey research such as the 2001 Provincial Child Care Survey, the final results are based on two sources of data: the information provided on the surveys by the responding child care facilities, and existing “official” information about the population of facilities. The former provides the basic results from the respondents, which can then be weighted using the available population information. Once weighted, the final results form the best estimate of what the basic results would have been had every facility in the population responded to the survey.

Two pieces of information about the population were available to weight the raw results: the number of licensed facilities of each type of service (e.g., childminding, out-of-school, licensed family child care) in each HR, and the maximum licensed capacity of each facility. This information is continuously gathered and updated by Community Care Facilities. The HA offices provided the project with this critical information.

Weights were calculated separately for each type of service, within each region. Three weighting factors were used: weighting for the non-responding facilities, weighting for differences in maximum capacity between non-responding and responding facilities, and weighting for non-response to survey items.

The weights for non-responding facilities were calculated by comparing the number of responding facilities of a particular service type with the actual number of facilities of that service type. For example, in the North Okanagan HR there were 12 group child care facilities (30 months to school age) that were sent questionnaires. Eight of these responded to the survey. Therefore, a weight of 1.5 ($12/8$) was applied to the results of these facilities to adjust upwards to the actual population number.

The weights for differences in maximum licensed capacity were calculated by comparing the mean capacity of responding facilities of a particular service type with the mean capacity of all facilities of that service type. If the mean capacity of preschools in the Burnaby HR that responded to the survey was 20, and the mean capacity of all Burnaby HR preschools was 22, then a weight of 1.1 ($22/20$) was assigned to each of the

respondents. This weight, unlike the weight for non-responding facilities, can be either greater or less than 1. If the respondents tended to be from the larger facilities, then the calculated weight would be less than 1.

Upward weighting for non-response to survey items was also necessary so that the results reflected the population. Estimates of enrolment, for example, would have been too low if any respondents' information was missing. This would be true for any absolute number calculated from the results. Results expressed as percentages, however, would be unchanged whether or not this weighting factor was used.

Once each of these three weights was calculated, an overall weight was derived for each service type/region combination by multiplying the three weighting factors. This weight was then applied to the analyses of the results.

RESULTS - LICENSED CENTRE-BASED 2001 PROVINCIAL CHILD CARE SURVEY

For ease of reading, information pertaining to facilities licensed as "group under 36 months" will be referred to as "group under-three"; facilities licensed as "group 30 months to school age" will be termed "group three-to-five"; and facilities licensed to serve children who require additional support will be referred to as "special needs" facilities.

Return Rates

As Table C1 shows, return rates ranged from a low of 49% in the Northern Interior and Upper Island HRs to a high of 74% in the Peace Liard HR. The 58% overall return rate was lower than in 1997, when 63% of facilities returned their surveys, and similar to 1993 (57%). Return rates were highest for group under 3 facilities (76.8%), special needs facilities (84.2%) and group 3 to 5 centres (62.9%). There were lower return rates for preschools (58.7%), out-of-school facilities (51.0%) and childminding centres (42.6%).

Number of Facilities

There were 2,116 licensed centre-based facilities in the province as of April 2001, compared to 1,844 such facilities in April 1997 and 1,415 facilities in May, 1993 (see Table

C2). This is an increase of 14.8% in the last four years, or 3.5% per year, compounded annually. The rate of increase is slowing, down from an annual compound rate of just under 7% from 1993 to 1997. Table C2 also shows the overall number of facilities in each HR.

The number of facilities of each service type, both provincially and in each HR, is summarized in Table C3. More centre-based facilities offered preschool care than any other type of service. Forty-three per cent of all facilities were licensed for preschool care, compared to 38.9% that offered out-of-school care, and 31.9% that were licensed as group 30 month to school age facilities. Since 1997, the service type with the greatest percentage increase in the number of facilities was occasional child care at ski hill or resort (up by 75%, from eight to 14), followed by school age facilities (29%), preschools (20%) and group 30 month to school age facilities (10%). The number of child minding facilities has decreased by 14%, while special needs centres have decreased from 55 in 1997 to 19 currently.

Of course, a facility may be licensed for more than one type of care. Approximately 28% of responding facilities had more than one service type attached to their facility (licence) number, similar to 1997, when this was true for 29% of facilities.

Table C1 Return Rates for 2001 Centre-based Child Care Survey			
<u>Health Region</u>	<u># of returns</u>	<u># of facilities</u>	<u>Return Rate (%)</u>
East Kootenay	26	47	55.3
West Kootenay	29	48	60.4
North Okanagan	27	40	67.5
South Okanagan	68	114	59.6
Thompson	42	74	56.8
Fraser Valley	62	119	52.1
South Fraser Valley	126	221	57.0
Simon Fraser	88	158	55.7
Coast Garibaldi	37	56	66.1
Central Van. Island	70	135	51.9
Upper Island	37	76	48.7
Cariboo	25	44	56.8
North West	27	53	50.9
Peace Liard	23	31	74.2
Northern Interior	37	76	48.7
Vancouver	183	295	62.0
Burnaby	57	89	64.0
North Shore	61	119	51.3
Richmond	65	115	56.5
Capital	134	206	65.0
B.C. Total	1,224	2,116	57.8

Table C2 The Number of Facilities in Centre-based Child Care, 2001 vs. 1997			
<u>Health Region</u>	<u>2001 Facilities</u>	<u>1997 Facilities</u>	<u>% Change</u>
East Kootenay	47	42	+11.9
West Kootenay	48	41	+14.6
North Okanagan	40	36	+11.1
South Okanagan	114	100	+14.0
Thompson	74	58	+27.6
Fraser Valley	119	94	+26.6
South Fraser Valley	221	197	+12.2
Simon Fraser	158	132	+19.7
Coast Garibaldi	56	43	+30.2
Central Van. Island	135	116	+16.4
Upper Island	76	61	+24.6
Cariboo	44	44	0
North West	53	40	+32.5
Peace Liard	31	26	+19.2
Northern Interior	76	62	+22.6
Vancouver	295	248	+19.0
Burnaby	89	97	-8.2
North Shore	119	106	+12.3
Richmond	115	97	+18.6
Capital	206	204	+1.0
B.C. Total	2,116	1,844	+14.8

Table C3 Number of Centre-based Facilities in 2001, by Service Type and Health Region								
<u>Health Region</u>	<u>Group Under 3</u>	<u>Group 3 to 5</u>	<u>Out of School</u>	<u>Special Needs</u>	<u>Child Minding</u>	<u>Preschool</u>	<u>Emergency</u>	<u>Occasional /Ski Hill</u>
East Kootenay	10	13	17	0	9	15	0	4
West Kootenay	7	11	17	0	6	12	0	3
North Okanagan	7	12	17	0	4	19	0	1
South Okanagan	16	33	49	1	8	52	0	2
Thompson	19	35	46	1	4	41	0	1
Fraser Valley	12	27	45	0	9	60	0	0
South Fraser Valley	14	76	87	2	2	141	0	0
Simon Fraser	9	65	66	1	7	78	0	0
Coast Garibaldi	9	15	17	0	6	17	0	3
Central Van. Island	16	55	71	0	7	68	0	0
Upper Island	10	33	35	0	12	37	0	1
Cariboo	9	10	20	0	9	13	0	0
North West	9	21	13	0	0	23	0	0
Peace Liard	3	11	8	0	2	15	0	0
Northern Interior	8	14	31	0	9	25	0	0
Vancouver	32	76	75	13	12	100	1	0
Burnaby	12	32	29	1	1	43	0	0
North Shore	15	40	49	1	5	30	0	0
Richmond	6	28	33	1	6	64	0	0
Capital	18	67	89	1	4	63	0	0
B.C. Total	241	674	813	22	122	916	1	14

Maximum Licensed Capacity

In this report, capacity results are reported as maximum licensed capacity, rather than actual capacity for two reasons. First, this allows direct comparisons with the results of previous surveys in 1991, 1993 and 1997, which reported maximum licensed capacity. Second, maximum licensed capacity reflects the best indicator of child care supply. Whereas some facilities choose to operate below licensed capacity, most facilities report they would operate at maximum licensed capacity if it was justified by enrolment.

Table C4 shows that, as of April 2001, there were an estimated 56,053 child care spaces in B.C. This total reflects the sum of the maximum licensed capacities of the individual service types, but disregards emergency care and occasional/ski resort.

Two other, related issues about capacity need to be borne in mind with regards to licensed capacity. First, preschool capacities were calculated using only their capacity per group, to be consistent with previous provincial surveys. Preschool capacities are actually much higher, as most operate with more than one group per week. Therefore, on this first issue, Table C4 underestimates the true capacity of child care spaces.

The second issue concerns those facilities that are licensed for more than one type of care, and have an overall licensed capacity for the centre that is less than the sum of the maximum spaces allowed in each of these individual types of care. An example would be if a centre was licensed for children in both group 3 to 5 care and out of school care, each for 20 spaces, but had an overall licensed capacity of 30. In that case, if there were 20 children enrolled in group 3 to 5 care, this would only allow the centre to take 10 more school age children, to avoid exceeding their licensed capacity of 30. Summing the maximum spaces for the two service types (as was done in Table C4) has the effect, for this centre, of overestimating maximum licensed capacity. To the extent that this situation occurs, the totals in Table C4 are somewhat overestimated. This is only true, however, for centres in this situation that offer the individual services *at the same time*. If the times are different, as they would be for preschool and out of school care, then there is no inflation of overall capacity by adding the individual capacities.

Given these issues, the practice of reporting the sum of the individual capacities was continued in the 2001 child care survey (as was done in the three previous surveys).

Some centres do not use all of the spaces for which they are licensed, and so there was an item on the survey that asked for the actual number of spaces offered. Table C5 presents the results for offered spaces, by HR. The total of 51,914 offered spaces represents 92.6% of the 56,053 maximum licensed spaces in the province as of April 2001. The percentage of licensed spaces actually offered was 91.4% in group under 3 care, 92.4% in group 3 to 5 care, 94.1% in out of school care, 93.3% in preschool care, 77.2% in special needs care, and 88.9% in childminding.

The 2001 maximum capacity of 56,053 spaces is an increase of 12% over the 1997 maximum capacity of 49,980 (Table C6), less than the 37% increase from 1993 to 1997. A more meaningful way to compare capacity however, is to look at capacity relative to the population of children at the time of the provincial surveys. This is illustrated in Table C7. Between 1997 and 2001, the number of child care spaces (of all types) in the province increased from 77 per 1,000 children to 90 per 1,000 children. This 17% relative increase is larger than the 12% increase in the absolute number of spaces, due to the declining number of children aged 0 to 12 in the province in the last four years.

The percentage change in capacity per 1,000 children between 2001 and 1991 varied between the different service types. In the province as a whole, group under 3 care had the greatest increase in relative capacity. As Table C8 shows, there were 26 group under 3 spaces per 1,000 children in 2001, an increase of 30% over the 20 group under 3 spaces per 1,000 children in 1997. The relative number of group 30 months to school age spaces (Table C9) declined by 3%, from 90 to 87 spaces per 1,000 children, while preschool spaces grew by a more modest rate of 9% (Table C10). The second largest increase (23%) was for out-of-school care, from 43 to 53 spaces per 1,000 children (Table C11).

<u>Health Region</u>	<u>Group Under 3</u>	<u>Group 3 to 5</u>	<u>Out of School</u>	<u>Special Needs</u>	<u>Child Minding</u>	<u>Total (Excl. Preschool)</u>	<u>Preschool</u>	<u>Total (Incl. Preschool)</u>
East Kootenay	83	288	328	0	128	827	250	1,077
West Kootenay	70	220	315	0	80	685	195	880
North Okanagan	76	222	307	0	64	669	357	1,026
South Okanagan	200	660	1,003	10	103	1,976	824	2,800
Thompson	265	581	743	30	50	1,669	571	2,240
Fraser Valley	161	552	944	0	178	1,835	1,001	2,836
South Fraser Valley	198	1,524	1,631	38	16	3,407	2,672	6,079
Simon Fraser	125	1,293	1,764	16	118	3,316	1,543	4,859
Coast Garibaldi	102	315	368	0	69	854	273	1,127
Central Van. Island	202	946	1,233	0	80	2,461	1,134	3,595
Upper Island	165	611	550	0	149	1,475	561	2,036
Cariboo	90	166	407	0	96	759	216	975
North West	151	367	151	0	0	669	401	1,070
Peace Liard	55	236	264	0	38	593	241	834
Northern Interior	161	357	949	0	177	1,644	722	2,366
Vancouver	490	1,913	2,633	211	167	5,414	2,377	7,791
Burnaby	168	760	777	15	20	1,740	638	2,378
North Shore	240	840	1,216	28	90	2,414	1,469	3,883
Richmond	97	512	802	25	109	1,545	888	2,433
Capital	214	1,688	2,637	35	68	4,642	1,125	5,767
B.C. Total	3,313	14,051	19,026	408	1,800	38,598	17,455	56,053

Table C5 Offered Spaces by Service Type, by Health Region

<u>Health Region</u>	<u>Group Under 3</u>	<u>Group 3 to 5</u>	<u>Out of School</u>	<u>Special Needs</u>	<u>Child Minding</u>	<u>Total (Excl. Preschool)</u>	<u>Preschool</u>	<u>Total (Incl. Preschool)</u>
East Kootenay	71	228	269	0	69	637	245	882
West Kootenay	70	218	264	0	80	632	189	821
North Okanagan	76	215	278	0	64	633	320	953
South Okanagan	172	551	976	10	103	1,710	785	2,495
Thompson	239	438	607	12	45	1,341	504	1,845
Fraser Valley	134	533	902	0	178	1,747	972	2,719
South Fraser Valley	169	1,407	1,550	33	16	3,175	2,456	5,631
Simon Fraser	117	1,236	1,764	16	118	3,251	1,493	4,744
Coast Garibaldi	97	266	283	0	44	690	210	900
Central Van. Island	183	891	1,080	0	73	2,227	1,012	3,239
Upper Island	158	534	481	0	135	1,308	525	1,833
Cariboo	71	122	280	0	96	569	191	760
North West	122	327	151	0	0	600	343	943
Peace Liard	37	215	239	0	38	529	212	741
Northern Interior	157	327	889	0	118	1,491	676	2,167
Vancouver	463	1,859	2,551	185	141	5,199	2,301	7,500
Burnaby	168	750	770	5	20	1,713	583	2,296
North Shore	236	823	1,104	28	90	2,281	1,334	3,615
Richmond	87	512	802	25	104	1,530	847	2,377
Capital	202	1,536	2,612	17	68	4,435	1,018	5,453
B.C. Total	3,029	12,988	17,852	315	1,600	35,698	16,216	51,914

Table C6 Maximum Licensed Capacity, 2001 vs. 1997		
<u>Health Region</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>1997</u>
East Kootenay	1,077	1,029
West Kootenay	880	908
North Okanagan	1,026	815
South Okanagan	2,800	2,370
Thompson	2,240	1,661
Fraser Valley	2,836	2,303
South Fraser Valley	6,079	5,312
Simon Fraser	4,859	3,951
Coast Garibaldi	1,127	827
Central Van. Island	3,595	3,100
Upper Island	2,036	1,508
Cariboo	975	881
North West	1,070	1,090
Peace Liard	834	765
Northern Interior	2,366	1,550
Vancouver	7,791	8,264
Burnaby	2,378	2,148
North Shore	3,883	3,627
Richmond	2,433	2,393
Capital	5,767	5,486
B.C. Total	56,053	49,980

<u>Health Region</u>	<u># of Facilities</u>	<u># Licensed Spaces</u>	<u># Offered Spaces</u>	<u>Population Under 13</u>	<u># Licensed Spaces / 1000 Population</u>		
					<u>2001</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1993</u>
East Kootenay	47	1,077	882	12,903	83	74	79
West Kootenay	48	880	821	11,606	76	66	61
North Okanagan	40	1,026	953	17,868	57	40	27
South Okanagan	114	2,800	2,495	33,178	84	68	51
Thompson	74	2,240	1,845	21,721	103	70	64
Fraser Valley	119	2,836	2,719	44,893	63	49	37
South Fraser Valley	221	6,079	5,631	103,676	59	51	35
Simon Fraser	158	4,859	4,744	53,810	90	71	58
Coast Garibaldi	56	1,127	900	12,126	93	62	72
Central Van. Island	135	3,595	3,239	36,932	97	77	63
Upper Island	76	2,036	1,833	20,105	101	66	58
Cariboo	44	975	760	13,625	72	60	54
North West	53	1,070	943	18,444	58	53	33
Peace Liard	31	834	741	14,191	59	52	38
Northern Interior	76	2,366	2,167	24,744	96	59	35
Vancouver	295	7,791	7,500	67,301	116	129	95
Burnaby	89	2,378	2,296	25,932	92	90	77
North Shore	119	3,883	3,615	24,659	157	140	96
Richmond	115	2,433	2,377	22,685	107	98	70
Capital	206	5,767	5,453	43,543	131	116	97
B.C. Total	2,116	56,053	51,914	624,028	90	77	60

Table C8 Licensed Under 3 Child Care Spaces per 1,000 Children, by Health Region and Survey Year						
Health Region	# of Facilities	# Licensed Spaces	# Offered Spaces	Population Under 3	# Licensed Spaces/1000 Population	
					2001	1997
East Kootenay	10	83	71	2,308	36	36
West Kootenay	7	70	70	2,054	34	20
North Okanagan	7	76	76	3,127	24	8
South Okanagan	16	200	172	6,288	32	27
Thompson	19	265	239	3,880	68	51
Fraser Valley	12	161	134	9,070	18	21
South Fraser Valley	14	198	169	21,296	9	8
Simon Fraser	9	125	117	10,998	11	10
Coast Garibaldi	9	102	97	2,375	43	26
Central Van. Island	16	202	183	6,577	31	18
Upper Island	10	165	158	3,583	46	25
Cariboo	9	90	71	2,550	35	17
North West	9	151	122	3,418	44	26
Peace Liard	3	55	37	2,801	20	3
Northern Interior	8	161	157	4,548	35	22
Vancouver	32	490	463	16,399	30	20
Burnaby	12	168	168	6,020	28	26
North Shore	15	240	236	4,927	49	35
Richmond	6	97	87	4,694	21	9
Capital	18	214	202	8,416	25	40
B.C. Total	241	3,313	3,029	125,325	26	20

Table C9 Licensed Group 3 to 5 Spaces per 1,000 Children, by Health Region and Survey Year						
Health Region	# of Facilities	# Licensed Spaces	# Offered Spaces	Population 2.5 to 5	# Licensed Spaces/1000 Population	
					2001	1997
East Kootenay	13	288	228	3,078	94	105
West Kootenay	11	220	218	2,692	82	106
North Okanagan	12	222	215	4,276	52	39
South Okanagan	33	660	551	8,209	80	77
Thompson	35	581	438	5,432	107	96
Fraser Valley	27	552	533	11,560	48	44
South Fraser Valley	76	1,524	1,407	27,537	55	64
Simon Fraser	65	1,293	1,236	14,022	92	76
Coast Garibaldi	15	315	266	3,009	105	75
Central Van. Island	55	946	891	9,002	105	90
Upper Island	33	611	534	5,003	122	98
Cariboo	10	166	122	3,529	47	79
North West	21	367	327	4,760	77	69
Peace Liard	11	236	215	3,691	64	70
Northern Interior	14	357	327	6,288	57	62
Vancouver	76	1,913	1,859	18,852	101	129
Burnaby	32	760	750	7,241	105	136
North Shore	40	840	823	6,166	136	133
Richmond	28	512	512	5,957	91	92
Capital	67	1,688	1,536	11,062	153	173
B.C. Total	674	14,051	12,988	161,364	87	90

Table C10 Licensed Preschool Spaces per 1,000 Children, by Health Region and Survey Year						
Health Region	# of Facilities	# Licensed Spaces	# Offered Spaces	Population 2.5 to 5	# Licensed Spaces/1000 Population	
					2001	1997
East Kootenay	15	250	245	3,078	81	75
West Kootenay	12	195	189	2,692	72	70
North Okanagan	19	357	320	4,276	83	70
South Okanagan	52	824	785	8,209	100	101
Thompson	41	571	504	5,432	105	63
Fraser Valley	60	1,001	972	11,560	87	67
South Fraser Valley	141	2,672	2,456	27,537	97	86
Simon Fraser	78	1,543	1,493	14,022	110	102
Coast Garibaldi	17	273	210	3,009	91	72
Central Van. Island	68	1,134	1,012	9,002	126	117
Upper Island	37	561	525	5,003	112	81
Cariboo	13	216	191	3,529	61	53
North West	23	401	343	4,760	84	84
Peace Liard	15	241	212	3,691	65	72
Northern Interior	25	722	676	6,288	115	50
Vancouver	100	2,377	2,301	18,852	126	136
Burnaby	43	638	583	7,241	88	112
North Shore	30	1,469	1,334	6,166	238	221
Richmond	64	888	847	5,957	149	121
Capital	63	1,125	1,018	11,062	102	101
B.C. Total	916	17,455	16,216	161,364	108	97

Table C11 Licensed Out of School Spaces per 1,000 Children, by Health Region and Survey Year						
Health Region	# of Facilities	# Licensed Spaces	# Offered Spaces	Population 6 to 12	# Licensed Spaces/1000 Population	
					2001	1997
East Kootenay	17	328	269	7,916	41	27
West Kootenay	17	315	264	7,201	44	25
North Okanagan	17	307	278	11,015	28	15
South Okanagan	49	1,003	976	19,742	51	32
Thompson	46	743	607	13,097	57	31
Fraser Valley	45	944	902	25,890	36	22
South Fraser Valley	87	1,631	1,550	58,572	28	22
Simon Fraser	66	1,764	1,764	30,654	58	45
Coast Garibaldi	17	368	283	7,154	51	22
Central Van. Island	71	1,233	1,080	22,493	55	41
Upper Island	35	550	481	12,162	45	28
Cariboo	20	407	280	7,989	51	25
North West	13	155	151	10,851	14	12
Peace Liard	8	264	239	8,181	32	22
Northern Interior	31	949	889	14,718	64	33
Vancouver	75	2,633	2,551	34,754	76	111
Burnaby	29	777	770	13,674	57	49
North Shore	49	1,216	1,104	14,411	84	81
Richmond	33	802	802	12,838	62	75
Capital	89	2,637	2,612	25,502	103	70
B.C. Total	813	19,026	17,852	358,811	53	43

Enrolment

Table C12 shows centre-based enrolment as of April 2001, by type of care and HR. These enrolment figures reflect the number of actual children enrolled in centre-based care, without any distinctions between full-time, part-time and drop-in. Particularly for part-day programs such as preschool and out-of-school care, these distinctions were difficult for respondents to make, and so Table C12 includes enrolment of any kind. With the above caveat in mind, enrolment by service type has been broken down by full-time / part-time / drop-in care in Table C13. The results show that there were an estimated 69,315 children enrolled in B.C. centres. Of these, 45% were in preschools, 21% in group 3 to 5 centres, 26% in out-of-school care, 5% in group under 3 programs, 3% in childminding, and 0.4% in special needs facilities.

In terms of absolute numbers, enrolment declined by 2.4% since 1997. As Table C14 indicates, the only service types to increase were out-of-school care (up by 31%) and group under 3 care (11%). The largest decreases were for special needs care, down dramatically due to the transition to Supported Child Care, and childminding. Despite the drop in absolute overall enrolment, using the relative yardstick of enrolment per 1,000 children, enrolment has been stable. In 2001, there were 111 children enrolled per 1,000 children in the province, slightly up from 109 children in 1997.

Comparing the ratio of enrolment to capacity is a good way to assess enrolment trends over time, or to compare enrolment in various service types. Table C15 summarizes this ratio for each HR for all services types taken together. Preschool is shown as included and as excluded because each preschool space is typically used more than once per week. Provincially, there were 1.24 children enrolled in each centre-based child care space, preschool included. This ratio drops to 1.00 when preschool is excluded, as the provincial ratio for preschool centres is 1.77 children per space.

Table C12 Enrolment in Centre-based Care in 2001, by Health Region and Service Type								
<u>Health Region</u>	<u>Group Under 3</u>	<u>Group 3 to 5</u>	<u>Out of School</u>	<u>Special Needs</u>	<u>Child Minding</u>	<u>Total (Excl. Preschool)</u>	<u>Preschool</u>	<u>Total (Incl. Preschool)</u>
East Kootenay	107	276	324	--	176	883	205	1,088
West Kootenay	78	352	249	--	131	810	378	1,188
North Okanagan	79	295	265	--	130	769	738	1,507
South Okanagan	200	618	1,135	No responses	160	2,113	1,699	3,812
Thompson	266	474	738	11	156	1,623	668	2,302
Fraser Valley	113	522	859	--	277	1,771	2,182	3,953
South Fraser Valley	203	1,453	1,472	26	No responses	3,154	5,171	8,325
Simon Fraser	64	1,282	1,625	No responses	56	3,027	2,896	5,923
Coast Garibaldi	92	298	573	--	44	1,007	459	1,466
Central Van. Island	181	1,080	1,060	--	82	2,403	1,518	3,921
Upper Island	235	645	453	--	127	1,460	911	2,371
Cariboo	76	161	345	--	164	746	404	1,150
North West	146	432	98	--	0	676	497	1,173
Peace Liard	44	253	282	--	No responses	579	473	1,052
Northern Interior	158	346	862	--	266	1,632	1,186	2,818
Vancouver	553	1,815	2,663	198	157	5,386	4,048	9,434
Burnaby	183	746	770	5	No responses	1,704	1,305	3,009
North Shore	246	1,043	1,346	No responses	No responses	2,635	2,481	5,116
Richmond	74	556	869	32	165	1,696	1,589	3,285
Capital	212	1,618	2,260	16	259	4,365	2,049	6,414
B.C. Total	3,310	14,265	18,252	288	2,340	38,455	30,860	69,315

<u>Type of Service</u>	<u>Full-time Enrolment</u>	<u>Part-time Enrolment</u>	<u>Drop-in Enrolment</u>
Group Under 3	2,173 (65.6%)	1,085 (32.8%)	52 (1.6%)
Group 3 to 5	8,729 (61.2%)	5,002 (35.1%)	535 (3.8%)
Out of School	12,086 (66.2%)	5,112 (28.0%)	1,055 (5.8%)
Preschool	8,860 (28.7%)	21,904 (71.0%)	95 (0.3%)
Childminding	576 (24.6%)	1,604 (68.5%)	160 (6.8%)
Special Needs	170 (59.0%)	118 (41.0%)	0

<u>Type of Service</u>	<u>2001 Enrolment</u>	<u>1997 Enrolment</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Group Under 3	3,310	2,983	+11.0
Group 3 to 5	14,265	15,046	-5.2
Out of School	18,252	13,959	+30.8
Childminding	2,340	3,694	-36.7
Special Needs	288	1,753	-83.6*
Total (Excl. preschool)	38,455	37,435	+2.7
Preschool	30,860	33,612	-8.2
Total (Incl. preschool)	69,315	71,047	-2.4

* Many special needs spaces now counted as preschool spaces

Table C15 Enrolment Compared to Licensed Spaces in 2001, by Health Region

Health Region	Total (excl. preschool)			Preschool			Total (incl. preschool)		
	Spaces	Enrolment	Enr./space	Spaces	Enrolment	Enr./space	Spaces	Enrolment	Enr./space
East Kootenay	827	883	1.07	250	205	0.82	1,077	1,088	1.01
West Kootenay	685	810	1.18	195	378	1.94	880	1,188	1.35
North Okanagan	669	769	1.15	357	738	2.07	1,026	1,507	1.47
South Okanagan	1,976	2,113	1.07	824	1,699	2.06	2,800	3,812	1.37
Thompson	1,669	1,623	0.97	571	668	1.17	2,240	2,302	1.03
Fraser Valley	1,835	1,771	0.97	1,001	2,182	2.18	2,836	3,953	1.39
South Fraser Valley	3,407	3,154	0.92	2,672	5,171	1.94	6,079	8,325	1.37
Simon Fraser	3,316	3,027	0.92	1,543	2,896	1.88	4,859	5,923	1.22
Coast Garibaldi	854	1,007	1.18	273	459	1.68	1,127	1,466	1.30
Central Van. Island	2,461	2,403	0.98	1,134	1,518	1.34	3,595	3,921	1.09
Upper Island	1,475	1,460	0.99	561	911	1.62	2,036	2,371	1.16
Cariboo	759	746	0.98	216	404	1.87	975	1,150	1.18
North West	669	676	1.01	401	497	1.24	1,070	1,173	1.10
Peace Liard	593	579	0.98	241	473	1.96	834	1,052	1.26
Northern Interior	1,644	1,632	0.99	722	1,186	1.64	2,366	2,818	1.21
Vancouver	5,414	5,386	0.99	2,377	4,048	1.70	7,791	9,434	1.21
Burnaby	1,740	1,704	0.98	638	1,305	2.05	2,378	3,009	1.27
North Shore	2,414	2,635	1.10	1,469	2,481	1.69	3,883	5,116	1.33
Richmond	1,545	1,696	1.11	888	1,589	1.79	2,433	3,285	1.36
Capital	4,642	4,365	0.94	1,125	2,049	1.82	5,767	6,414	1.11
B.C. Total	38,598	38,455	1.00	17,388	30,860	1.77	56,053	69,315	1.24

Table C16 Enrolment Compared to Offered Spaces in 2001, by Health Region

Health Region	Total (excl. preschool)			Preschool			Total (incl. preschool)		
	Offered Spaces	Enrolment	Enrolment/ space	Offered Spaces	Enrolment	Enrolment/ space	Offered Spaces	Enrolment	Enrolment/ space
East Kootenay	637	883	1.39	245	205	0.84	882	1,088	1.23
West Kootenay	632	810	1.28	189	378	2.00	821	1,188	1.45
North Okanagan	633	769	1.21	320	738	2.31	953	1,507	1.58
South Okanagan	1,710	2,113	1.24	785	1,699	2.16	2,495	3,812	1.53
Thompson	1,341	1,623	1.21	504	668	1.33	1,845	2,302	1.25
Fraser Valley	1,747	1,771	1.01	972	2,182	2.24	2,719	3,953	1.45
South Fraser Valley	3,175	3,154	0.99	2,456	5,171	2.11	5,631	8,325	1.40
Simon Fraser	3,251	3,027	0.93	1,493	2,896	1.94	4,744	5,923	1.25
Coast Garibaldi	690	1,007	1.46	210	459	2.19	900	1,466	1.63
Central Van. Island	2,227	2,403	1.08	1,012	1,518	1.50	3,239	3,921	1.21
Upper Island	1,308	1,460	1.12	525	911	1.74	1,833	2,371	1.29
Cariboo	569	746	1.31	191	404	2.12	760	1,150	1.51
North West	600	676	1.13	343	497	1.45	943	1,173	1.54
Peace Liard	529	579	1.09	212	473	2.23	741	1,052	1.42
Northern Interior	1,491	1,632	1.09	676	1,186	1.75	2,167	2,818	1.30
Vancouver	5,199	5,386	1.04	2,301	4,048	1.76	7,500	9,434	1.26
Burnaby	1,713	1,704	0.99	583	1,305	2.24	2,296	3,009	1.31
North Shore	2,281	2,635	1.16	1,334	2,481	1.86	3,615	5,116	1.42
Richmond	1,530	1,696	1.11	847	1,589	1.88	2,377	3,285	1.38
Capital	4,435	4,365	0.98	1,018	2,049	2.01	5,453	6,414	1.18
B.C. Total	35,698	38,455	1.08	16,216	30,860	1.90	51,914	69,315	1.34

Table C16 shows offered capacity, instead of maximum licensed capacity, for enrolment to capacity ratios. The ratio of children enrolled in each centre-based child care space (preschool included) rises from 1.24 to 1.34 when offered capacity is used in the ratio.

The provincial enrolment: space ratio for each type of care is shown in Table C17. Next to preschools, the highest ratios were for childminding centres. The lowest ratio was for special needs care, at 0.75 children per space. In Table C17, the ratios obtained in 2001 are compared with those in 1997. The ratio has dropped by 13% from 1.42 to 1.24 children per licensed space. There was an increase in the enrolment per space for out-of-school care, but decreases for special needs, preschools, childminding, and group 30 months to school age care.

Type of Service	2001 Ratio	1997 Ratio
Group Under 3	1.00	0.99
Group 3 to 5	1.02	1.11
Out-of-School	0.96	0.91
Special Needs	0.75	1.61
Childminding	1.30	1.57
Total (Excl. Preschool)	1.00	1.04
Preschool	1.77	2.30
Total (Incl. Preschool)	1.24	1.42

Enrolment of Kindergarten Children

Over all types of care (and weighted to full enrolment and capacity), facilities reported a total of 5,464 children in their care who were attending kindergarten. Almost half (49.7%) of these kindergarten children were in out-of-school care, with 36.2% in group 3 to 5 care, 12.4% in preschools, 1.2% in childminding, and 0.5% in special needs child care facilities.

Kindergarten Programs

According to the responses to the survey, 21.1% of centre-based facilities run a kindergarten program. Of those that have such a program, 59% have a part day program, and 41% have a full day program. The type of care most likely to have a kindergarten program was out-of-school – 33% of out-of-school facilities run a kindergarten program.

Summer Enrolment Patterns

Respondents were asked, for each service type offered, whether summer enrolment differed from the rest of the year, and if so, the way that it differed. The results for each service type are shown in Table C18. In this table, “other responses” refers to responses that did not address overall enrolment numbers, including: different children, different hours, special program, and different numbers of full-time, part-time or drop-in children. The results show very different patterns, depending on the type of care. Group under 3, group 3 to 5, and special needs centres were most likely to have the same enrolment. Childminding and preschool centres were most likely to be closed during the summer. Out of school and childminding centres were most likely to have increased numbers of children.

Type of Care	% No response	% Lower*	% Same*	% Higher*	% Closed*	% Other response*
Group Under 3	15.2	28.7	43.7	0.5	19.7	7.5
Group 3 to 5	18.5	42.3	37.5	0.9	6.6	12.6
Out-of-School	20.8	32.4	21.1	6.2	20.5	19.9
Special Needs	33.3	20.0	70.0	0.0	0.0	10.0
Childminding	41.9	7.1	19.5	7.1	56.7	9.7
Preschool	32.6	7.4	12.4	0.0	70.4	9.8

* Percentages based on those who responded to the item

Fees

Table C19 shows the trend in centre-based full-time fees between 1997 and 2001. All fees have been rounded off to the nearest whole dollar. Preschool fees have had the largest percentage increase, followed by group 3 to 5 care. Out-of-school care fees dropped by an average of \$45 per month since 1997, a 19% decline. In Table C20, the mean monthly fees for each service type are broken down by HR.

In the 2001 survey, items concerning part-day fees were also included, but the complexity of the responses did not allow for any useful summaries. Items were also included in the survey concerning any evening, overnight, and weekend fees. For the few centres offering these types of care, the mean daily fees were: \$18.05, \$25.46, and \$29.95, respectively. In the province as a whole, 60% of facilities charge higher fees for extended hours care, 45% charge extra for transportation, and 32% have higher fees for a meal program.

Table C19 Fee Comparison of Full-time fees, 2001 vs. 1997

<u>Type of Service</u>	<u>Mean Monthly Fee 2001</u>	<u>Mean Monthly Fee 1997</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Group Infant Care (under 18 months)	\$705	\$ 679	+3.8
Group Toddler Care (18 to 35 months)	\$662	\$ 638	+3.8
Group Care (30 Months to School Age)	\$494	\$ 453	+9.1
Kindergarten children in Group Child Care	\$419	Not asked	--
Out of School Care (a.m. only)	\$103	Not reported	--
Out of School Care (p.m. only)	\$157	Not reported	--
Out of School Care (a.m. and p.m.)	\$194	\$ 239	-18.8
Childminding	\$61	Not reported	--
Preschool (2x per week)	\$78	\$67	+16.4
Preschool (3x per week)	\$107	\$92	+16.3

Table C20 Mean Monthly Fees (\$) by Type of Care, by Health Region						
Health Region	Infant Care 0 to 17 months	Toddler Care 18 to 35 months	Group Care 3 to 5 years	Out of School Care (a.m. & p.m.)	Preschool Care 2 sessions/week	Preschool Care 3 sessions/week
East Kootenay	617	562	429	200	64	85
West Kootenay	692	577	438	211	71	119
North Okanagan	652	615	443	249	62	95
South Okanagan	680	641	443	194	75	102
Thompson	556	526	420	207	76	115
Fraser Valley	669	619	423	152	71	84
South Fraser Valley	661	623	466	200	83	111
Simon Fraser	850	767	521	210	77	99
Coast Garibaldi	769	708	552	124	83	124
Central Van. Island	660	608	449	209	79	106
Upper Island	729	687	471	168	71	102
Cariboo	670	607	414	206	76	117
North West	650	625	507	229	80	109
Peace Liard	491	466	429	197	60	75
Northern Interior	678	644	456	193	66	96
Vancouver	905	817	537	156	84	117
Burnaby	841	808	529	195	74	94
North Shore	900	776	611	245	111	136
Richmond	923	848	549	142	83	118
Capital	722	661	509	163	77	102
B.C. Total	705	662	494	194	78	107

Type of Operation

The provincial breakdown of the percentage of facilities of each type of operation is indicated in Table C21. Non-profit facilities operated by parent or community boards were the most common type of operation at 38.9%, closely followed by private operators who operate 37% of facilities. The total percentage adds to more than 100% because respondents were given the option of choosing more than one type of operation. The percentage of facilities operated by Aboriginal governments, or by post-secondary institutions, has increased substantially, though both categories together make up less than 5% of all center-based facilities.

<u>Type of Operation</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>1997</u>
Non-Profit - Parent/Community Board	38.9	37.1
Non-Profit - Social Service/Multi-service	10.0	12.1
Non-Profit - Religious Organization	8.8	9.1
Non-Profit – Municipality/Other Government	2.7	3.3
Non-Profit - College/University	2.2	1.2
Non-Profit – Union	2.7	1.6
Non-Profit – Aboriginal	2.8	1.3
Non-Profit – School Board	1.5	--
Non-Profit – Hospital	0.3	--
Private Operator	36.8	37.2
Other	2.7	4.0
Total	108.9	107.4

Table C22 shows the proportion of facilities in a four-category version of type of operation, this time broken down by type of service and year of survey. The 2001 results show that the proportion of parent/community boards was the most common type of operation for preschools and childminding centres. For group under 3 care and special needs care, other types of non-profit facilities were the most likely type of

operation. Finally, private operators were the most common type of operation for group 3 to 5 and out-of-school centres.

Since 1997, there has been an apparent shift to parent/community boards for preschools and childminding facilities (see Table C22). There are also a greater proportion of group under 3 centres in the “other non-profit” category, and fewer with parent/community boards. For privately operated facilities, there has been a tendency for their representation to have decreased in the past four years, except for out-of-school care.

Type of Care	Parent/ Community		Other Non- Profit		Private Operator		Other	
	2001	1997	2001	1997	2001	1997	2001	1997
Group Under 3	36.9	52.0	45.4	27.6	15.4	19.1	2.3	1.3
Group 3 to 5	30.6	35.4	26.6	17.6	39.2	44.9	3.6	2.2
Out-of-School	32.8	34.6	24.1	26.8	40.5	36.5	2.6	2.2
Special Needs	29.4	77.5	58.8	20.0	5.9	2.5	5.9	0.0
Childminding	40.3	33.8	29.4	26.5	30.3	33.8	0.0	5.9
Preschool	39.4	38.7	22.7	18.5	34.8	40.4	3.1	2.6

Aboriginal Child Care Services

In the 2001 Provincial Child Care Survey, respondents were asked if their centre was located on-reserve. There were 44 centres that responded affirmatively. There were five HR on-reserve centres composed over 10% of all respondents in that region: Cariboo, Peace Liard, Thompson, Northern Interior, and North Okanagan. There are no analyses in this report that focus particularly on these centres, but a future report about on-reserve child care would be interesting, informative, and timely.

Days and Hours of Operation

Calculations about days and hours of operation are complicated by the issue of multiple service types within one centre. In such cases, for example for centres with both preschool and out of school services under one licence, it is difficult to separate days and hours of operation for each type of service. As a result, the following statistics were compiled only using centres with one service type reported on one survey form, and so the results should be viewed with caution.

All of the group under 3 centres reported being open five days per week; the same was true for special needs centres. Ninety-seven per cent of group 3 to 5 facilities were open for five days per week, with 1.2% open fewer days, and 1.8% open six or seven days per week. Sixty-four per cent of preschools were open five days per week, with 34.3% open fewer days, and 1.3% open more days per week. For out of school centres, 93.4% were open five days per week, compared to 3.6% open fewer days and 2.9% open more days per week. Childminding facilities were the most variable, with 15% open one day per week, 31% open two days, 4% open three days, 31% open four days, 15% open five days, and 4% open six days per week.

Table C23 shows the mean and median hours of operation per week for each type of care. Group 3 to 5 centres were open the longest, averaging 49.9 hours per week, while childminding centres had the shortest hours, averaging 18.0 hours per week.

<u>Type of Care</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Median</u>
Group Under 3	44.4	45.0
Group 3 to 5	49.9	50.0
Out-of-School	25.3	25.0
Special Needs	40.3	45.0
Childminding	10.5	10.0
Preschool	18.0	20.0

Special Services and Additional Services

Centre-based facilities were asked if they provide evening, overnight, or weekend child care. None of these types of care was commonly offered. Evening care was offered by 1.5% of facilities, weekend care by 1.3%, and a minuscule 0.3% of facilities offered overnight care.

Additional services were more common. Twenty-eight percent of centres provided transportation. The service type most likely to provide transportation was out-of-school care, at 52%. Twenty-one percent offered a meal program. Special needs and group under 3 centres offered meals more often than other types of care.

Regular Closures

Table C24 shows the percentage of facilities that regularly close for part of the year. More than nine in ten centres have regular closures. Respondents also indicated how many days they were regularly closed per year, including statutory holidays. The results for this question were somewhat unreliable, as different facilities included or excluded closures such as weekends. The median, rather than the mean, has been reported in the table to minimize the skew due to these varying interpretations.

Centres were given a choice of reasons for their regular closures. Statutory holidays were the most frequent reason for a regular closure (89% of centres), followed by Christmas break (62%), school summer break (53%), school spring break (50%), staff professional development (19%), school professional development (9%), and staff vacations (4%). Not surprisingly, preschool centres were most likely to indicate regular closures during school spring and summer breaks. At 25%, preschools were also the type of care most likely to close for staff professional development, with group under 3 centres next at 24%.

<u>Type of Care</u>	<u>% Facilities</u>	<u>Median Days Closed</u>
Group Under 3	87.7	14
Group 3 to 5	88.5	12
Out-of-School	87.2	13
Special Needs	80.0	11
Childminding	95.5	26
Preschool	97.5	65
Overall	92.9	24

Other Closures

Table C25 shows a breakdown in the percentage of facilities of different service types that had temporary unscheduled closures in the past three years. There was little variation between types of care - percentages ranged from 15% to 20%, with slightly higher rates for preschool care (23%) and a lower rate for childminding (10%). Facilities were closed for a median of two days, without much difference between different service types. The survey provided a list of five potential reasons for these closures, but the most common choice (45%) was "other," indicating that the options provided were inadequate. Of these choices, 11% chose low enrolment, followed by 9% for insufficient

or unqualified staff, and under 3% for the other choices. The open-ended “other” responses have not yet been analyzed, but would provide important information for the next version of the provincial child care survey.

<u>Type of Care</u>	<u>% Facilities</u>	<u>Median Days Closed</u>
Group Under 3	20.4	2.0
Group 3 to 5	14.5	2.0
Out-of-School	15.7	2.0
Special Needs	13.3	2.5
Childminding	9.6	1.7
Preschool	23.0	2.0
Overall	18.1	2.0

Licensing

In the province as a whole, 70% of centres have had their licence for over five years (see Table C26). Childminding facilities were the most likely to be relatively new, with 12% having been licensed or received their interim permit in the past year. By contrast, less than 3% of group under 3 centres are in the same category.

Type of Care	<u>Under 6 months</u>	<u>6 months to 1 year</u>	<u>1 to 2 years</u>	<u>2 to 3 years</u>	<u>4 to 5 years</u>	<u>Over 5 years</u>
Group Under 3	1.4	1.4	4.3	12.2	7.6	73.1
Group 3 to 5	1.2	3.2	5.0	12.4	6.4	71.8
Out-of-School	2.8	6.2	5.1	10.3	9.4	66.2
Special Needs	1.6	4.6	4.9	10.0	8.5	70.4
Childminding	5.6	6.5	4.7	5.2	9.7	68.4
Preschool	0.2	3.9	4.6	9.5	9.1	72.6
Overall	1.7	4.7	4.9	10.4	8.6	69.8

Time to Receive Licence

Respondents whose facilities were licensed in 1998 or more recently were asked to report on the time necessary to receive a licence, once the application form was completed and all required documentation submitted. As Table C27 shows, about 56% of facilities receive their licence or interim permit within 30 days of completing their application. Less than 10% required more than 90 days; childminding facilities took the longest, with 19% requiring 91 days or more.

Type of Care	<u>0 to 30 days</u>	<u>31 to 90 days</u>	<u>91 to 180 days</u>	<u>181 to 365 days</u>	<u>Over 365 days</u>
Group Under 3	65.1	25.9	2.7	3.8	2.6
Group 3 to 5	55.1	34.5	6.3	3.2	1.0
Out-of-School	58.0	32.4	8.7	0.0	1.0
Special Needs	55.9	34.6	7.1	1.9	0.5
Childminding	49.8	31.3	18.9	0.0	0.0
Preschool	52.9	39.9	5.8	0.9	1.1
Overall	55.7	34.9	7.1	1.7	0.5

Main Benefits of Being Licensed

The top nine benefits of being licensed are shown in Table C28. The percentages in the table do not include the 20.1% of centre-based facilities that did not respond to this item. Facilities of different service types were consistent in the pattern of benefits they reported.

Main Drawbacks of Being Licensed

The top nine drawbacks of being licensed are shown in Table C29. The percentages in the table do not include the 33.9% of centre-based facilities that did not respond to this item. Again, there was little difference between centres of different service types in their reported drawbacks. Group under 3 centres were most likely to mention that inspections were not frequent enough (4.9%, vs. 1.9% for all centres), while group 3 to 5 centres were the most likely to report difficulties meeting regulations about educational qualifications of staff.

Table C28 Reported Benefits of Being Licensed, 2001	
	<u>% of Facilities</u>
Quality assurance, maintenance of standards	53.8
Parent reassurance, credibility	35.4
Support/advice/information from Licensing Officers	31.2
High level of safety and security	13.6
Government grants	8.2
Regular inspections	7.9
Regulations concerning educational qualifications	7.4
Feeling professional, respected, legitimate	4.9
Ability for parents to apply for subsidy	4.4

Table C29 Reported Drawbacks of Being Licensed, 2001	
	<u>% of Facilities</u>
No drawbacks	40.2
Restrictive rules and regulations in general	13.2
Limitations in the numbers and ages of children allowed	9.1
Inconsistent interpretations of regulations by Licensing Officers	6.8
Paperwork, administration time	6.1
Unannounced or inconvenient inspections	3.2
Dealing with Licensing Officers (attitude, respect, etc.)	3.2
Restrictions regarding staff educational qualifications	3.1
Red tape, bureaucracy	2.9

Time Since Last Inspection

Facilities were asked how long it had been since their last inspection by a licensing officer. The results were only compiled for those facilities which had been licensed for at least one year. Provincially, 56.7% of facilities were last visited less than six months earlier, 30.1% between six months but less than one year earlier, 11% between one and two years earlier, and 1.8% two or more years earlier. Only 0.2% of centres open for at least one year had never received an inspection.

Table C30 shows the percentage of centres in each HR (open one year or longer) that had received an inspection in the last year. There were nine HRs where less than 90% of facilities had been visited in the past year. This compared to only three regions where this was true in 1997. In 2001, there were three regions where fewer than 80% of facilities had been inspected in the previous year: Upper Island (53%), West Kootenay (66%), and South Fraser Valley (77%).

East Kootenay	85.6	Upper Island	52.7
West Kootenay	66.2	Cariboo	100.0
North Okanagan	96.8	North West	94.0
South Okanagan	98.5	Peace Liard	91.2
Thompson	82.5	Northern Interior	96.7
Fraser Valley	85.7	Vancouver	77.6
South Fraser Valley	77.2	Burnaby	91.2
Simon Fraser	89.1	North Shore	96.2
Coast Garibaldi	86.5	Richmond	98.7
Central Vancouver Island	97.0	Capital	90.8

Rating Child Care Licensing Requirements

In the 2001 provincial child care survey, each facility was asked to rate the strictness of 10 different requirements in the Child Care Licensing Regulations. Overall, most respondents rated licensing requirements as “about right”, except for the ratio in preschool care, which was rated as “too weak” by more than half of respondents. The overall results are shown in Table C31. Respondents clearly felt that staff to child ratios in preschool care were too lenient; with less strong, but similar feelings about the ratios in group under 3 and group 3 to 5 care. There was also some perception that smoking regulations are too weak. Outdoor space and play equipment and 500 hours of work experience were the only categories where more than 10% of respondents rated the requirements as too strict.

Respondents from different types of care did not always have the same ratings about regulations. To give two examples, 34% of group under 3 centres rated the staff to child ratio in their type of care as too weak, and 5% felt the regulation is too strict. Group 3 to 5 and preschool centres were more likely than other service types to feel that the space and equipment requirements were too strict.

Table C31 Ratings of Different Child Care Licensing Requirements			
<u>Requirement</u>	<u>Too strict</u>	<u>About right</u>	<u>Too weak</u>
Staff qualifications	7.1	85.0	7.9
500 Hours Work Experience	11.9	79.6	8.4
Ratio in Group Under 3 Child Care	2.8	79.0	18.2
Ratio in Group 3 to 5 Care	5.2	77.2	17.6
Ratio in Preschool Care	2.6	43.0	54.5
Record keeping and consents	7.0	90.7	2.3
Emergency procedures	2.2	96.5	1.2
Outdoor space and play equipment	17.6	78.1	4.3
Indoor space and play equipment	8.5	87.8	3.7
Smoking	0.7	86.3	13.0

Programs Designed for Particular Populations of Children

In the survey, an effort was made to identify those programs designed for particular populations of families. Specifically, four groups were identified: young parents, parents living on-reserve, urban Aboriginal families, and referrals from the Ministry of Children and Family Development under the Child, Family and Community Services Act. An “other” category was included to allow respondents to identify other particular populations that they serve. As in past provincial child care surveys when items such as this have been asked, respondents did not interpret the question correctly. Instead of identifying if their program was designed specifically for one or more of these populations, they tended to report whether or not their clientele includes or potentially includes these populations. Therefore, the results for this question were not reliable. For example, 29% of facilities indicated that they are designed as a program for young parents, which is clearly too high. Ten per cent responded that they are designed for parents living on-reserve, 14% of facilities are designed for urban Aboriginal families, and 31% indicated that they provide services specifically for children referred by MCFD.

Available Vacant Spaces

Table C32 shows the percentage of facilities with available vacant spaces in 2001 and 1997, separately for each type of care. The results show a decrease in the last four years in the percentage of facilities with vacancies; this is true for all types of care except preschool, for which the percentage has risen slightly. The greatest decrease was for group under 3 care – from 55.3% in 1997 to 38.2% in 2001.

Type of Care	2001	1997
Group Under 3	38.2	55.3
Group 3 to 5	49.3	54.1
Out-of-School	52.5	65.0
Special Needs	34.6	35.9
Childminding	56.8	61.0
Preschool	61.5	57.6

For those centres with vacancies, the mean number of vacancies by type of care is shown in Table C33. These vacancies are broken down by full-time, part-time and drop-in. As was the case with enrolment, these distinctions depend on the interpretation of the person completing the survey, and so the pattern of results should be regarded with caution.

Table C33 Mean Number of Available Vacant Spaces, by Type of Care				
<u>Type of Care</u>	<u>Mean # of Full-time Vacancies</u>	<u>Mean # of Part-time Vacancies</u>	<u>Mean # of Drop-in Vacancies</u>	<u>Mean # of Total Vacancies</u>
Group Under 3	3.2	1.8	0.1	5.1
Group 3 to 5	3.0	2.3	0.3	5.6
Out-of-School	4.0	2.0	1.3	7.3
Special Needs	2.9	1.3	0.0	4.2
Childminding	2.0	4.7	0.9	7.7
Preschool	2.6	5.1	0.1	7.8

Number of Enrolled Children Receiving the \$107 Support Payment and/or the Supported Child Care Range Payment

Based on the weightings used to estimate the population of children in centre-based child care, there were 1,890 children who received the \$107 Support Payment and 1,752 children who received the SCC Range Payment. This represents 2.7% and 2.5% of all of the children enrolled, respectively. In Table C34, this overall result is broken down by type of care.

Table C34 Number and Percentage of Children Receiving the \$107 Support Payment and/or the Supported Child Care Range Payment, by Type of Care

<u>Type of Care</u>	<u>\$107 Support Payment</u>		<u>SCC Range Payment</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Group Under 3	45	1.4	67	2.0
Group 3 to 5	434	3.1	421	3.0
Out-of-School	582	3.2	447	2.4
Special Needs	115	39.9	47	16.3
Childminding	2	0.1	13	0.6
Preschool	712	2.3	757	2.5

Subsidies

Child Care Subsidy

Almost all centre-based facilities have at least one subsidized child enrolled, as Table C35 shows for each type of care. Preschools were most likely to not have any subsidized children, but this was the case for only 14.6% of preschools. Compared to 1997, the percentage of centres without any subsidized children has dropped for all types of care, especially special needs care, preschools, and out-of-school care.

Type of Care	2001	1997
Group Under 3	94.5	94.3
Group 3 to 5	96.4	93.3
Out-of-School	93.4	79.9
Special Needs	100.0	43.6
Preschool	85.4	70.6

The estimated number of subsidized children and the percentage of all enrolled children who are subsidized are summarized in Table C36. Overall, 23.5% of all enrolled children were receiving subsidy, an increase from 20.1% in 1997. Within service types, the percentage of subsidized children in special needs care, group 3 to 5 care and out of school care increased from 1997, while there was a decrease for preschool care and group under 3 care.

Provincially, three-quarters (75.7%) of centres charge parents all of the difference between the subsidy amount and their actual fee. Twelve percent of facilities charge only some of the difference, while 12.4% typically do not charge parents any of the difference.

Table C36 Number of Subsidized Children and Percentage of Children Subsidized, by Type of Care				
Type of Care	# with Maximum Subsidy	# with Partial Subsidy	Total #	% of All Children
Infants 0 to 18 months	572	132	704	57.0
Toddlers 19 to 36 months	918	266	1,184	
Group child care excluding kindergarten children	3,645	1,425	5,070	40.3
Kindergarten children in group child care	492	175	667	
Preschool	1,657	1,343	2,000	6.5
Out of school care excluding kindergarten	3,251	1,399	4,650	29.6
Kindergarten children in out of school care	572	175	747	
Special needs child care	193	62	255	88.5
Total	11,300	4,977	16,277	23.5

\$107 Support Payment

Table C37 shows that approximately 40% to 50% of facilities have at least one child who was receiving the \$107 Support Payment. The exception was special needs centres, all of which have at least one child with this support.

<u>Type of Care</u>	<u>% of Facilities</u>
Group Under 3	41.5
Group 3 to 5	45.4
Out-of-School	42.4
Special Needs	100.0
Preschool	52.3

Table C38 summarizes the estimated number of children receiving the \$107 Support Payment, and the percentage of all enrolled children who receive this support.

<u>Type of Care</u>	<u># with Maximum \$107</u>	<u># with Partial \$107</u>	<u>Total #</u>	<u>% of All Children</u>
Infants 0 to 18 months	7	1	8	1.7
Toddlers 19 to 36 months	42	6	48	
Group child care excluding children	337	62	399	3.9
Kindergarten children in group child care	135	14	149	
Preschool	590	398	988	3.2
Out of school care excluding kindergarten	273	47	320	2.0
Kindergarten children in out of school care	32	5	37	
Special needs child care	64	7	71	24.7
Total	1,480	540	2,020	2.9

Supported Child Care (SCC)

Respondents were asked about their awareness of Supported Child Care, whether or not they knew who to call for information about SCC, and whether there was a Supported Child Care Consultant or Coordinator serving their community. The results for these items are summarized in Table C39. Awareness was essentially universal for all types of care except childminding (80%) and out of school care (90%). The results for knowing who to call in the community for SCC information were very similar to the awareness results, adjusted slightly downwards. About 85% of facilities reported that there was a Supported Child Care Consultant or Advisor in their community, with those in childminding and out of school care again more unsure than those in other service types.

Table C39 Awareness of Supported Child Care, Knowing Who to Call for SCC Information, and Knowing If There is a SCC Consultant or Advisor in the Community, by Type of Care				
Type of Care	% Aware of SCC	% Know Who to Call for Information	SCC Consultant or Coordinator in the Community	
			% Yes	% Don't Know
Group Under 3	95.5	91.7	86.0	10.3
Group 3 to 5	95.9	92.3	87.1	10.3
Out-of-School	89.9	87.0	78.8	20.3
Special Needs	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0
Childminding	80.2	73.1	67.8	30.9
Preschool	94.3	90.4	83.4	14.7

Centre-based facilities were asked to rank potential barriers that would be salient for them with regards to including children who require additional support in their programs. The rankings were weighted so that three points were given for an option ranked first, two points for a second-place ranking, and one point for a third-place

ranking. Once the points were summed over all of the options, the overall sums were converted into percentages.

For all facilities together, the top-ranked barriers to inclusion were:

1. costs of extra staff, renovations, equipment, supplies, etc. (35.1%)
2. lack of appropriate education and training (20.5%)
3. lack of time to meet with parents, therapists, consultants (20.1%)
4. concern about the quality of care provided for children who require extra support (17.4%)
5. other barriers (6.9%).

These barriers are in the same rank order as in the 1997 provincial child care survey.

Sixty percent of respondents felt that the barriers to inclusive child care had been reduced in the past two years. By type of care, this proportion ranged from a high of 63% for out of school care to 43% for special needs child care.

Overall, 38% of facilities in the province responded that they were not involved in any way with their local Supported Child Care Program or Consultant. With the exception of special needs facilities, where the proportion of non-involvement was 13%, there were only small differences between other types of care, with the proportion ranging from 33.5% for group 3 to 5 care to 40% for out of school care.

The 62% of centres that claimed some Supported Child Care involvement were asked to report on this involvement. Respondents mentioned a wide range of involvements. The six most frequently mentioned involvements were: currently having one or more children in the centre involved in Supported Child Care (39%), communicating and/or meeting with SCC Consultants (33%), having SCC staff working on-site (12%), being part of an SCC steering or advisory committee (10%), taking part in SCC courses, seminars or workshops (10%), and having SCC Consultants visit the centre (9%).

These 62% of centres claiming Supported Child Care involvement were also asked to rank several supports “that have been most helpful for this centre to include children who require additional support.” Using the same counting system as above for barriers to SCC, the top-ranking supports were:

1. close working relationships with supported child care consultants and health care professionals (32.1%)
2. specialized assistance at the centre (23.5%)
3. financial support for the centre (22.6%)
4. education and training for centre staff (18.8%)
5. other supports (2.9%)

In the case of supports, the rank order was quite different than in 1997, when the order was financial support, then education and training, then specialized assistance, and close working relationships fourth.

Finally, those involved with Supported Child Care were asked “how improved access to child care settings for children and families with special needs benefited your program.” This item was completed by 57% of this group of respondents. There were many subtle variations in the pattern of responses, making content analysis challenging. The top eight general themes were, in order of frequency: improved access has made their programs more inclusive; staff benefit in terms of learning and competence; typical children benefit; there has been no benefit, or even a negative impact; there are benefits to all children through their interactions; parents benefit through learning and increased support; children with special needs benefit; and, the centre benefits from having additional staff at the centre.

Funding Assistance Program (FAP)

Out of school facilities were asked to report on their awareness of the Funding Assistance Program, and the application status of their centre. Ninety-eight percent of

out of school centres were aware of the FAP, and 87% had applied for the funding. Of those that 13% that had not applied, about two-thirds (65.5%) had chosen not to apply. Of these, the reasons for not applying were: centre would lose money by participating (25%); centre is only open during restricted hours or months of the year (17%); centre does not charge fees (8%); to save revenue during school closures (8%); prohibitive paperwork or administrative costs (8%); and, not enough children (8%).

Compensation Contribution Program (CCP)

Since the 1997 survey the Wage Supplement Initiative and the Infant/Toddler Incentive Grant were amalgamated and replaced by the Compensation Contribution Program (CCP).

Table C40 shows that awareness of the CCP was in the range of 80% to 95%, with the exceptions of childminding (62%) and preschool centres (74%). For those centres that were aware of CCP, the proportion of centres receiving this funding was approximately 87%, plus or minus 4%, for the different types of care. Childminding centres compensated for their relatively lower awareness by having the highest percentage of centres that have received the CCP.

For those centres that reported not receiving the CCP, the top five reasons given were: centre doesn't qualify (e.g., no staff) (33%); on wait list (33%); applied, but not yet received (8%); told that no more CCP funds were available (6%); and, applied but never received any response (4%).

Facilities receiving the CCP were also asked about some potential effects of the program for their centre. Each potential effect had a "not applicable" option for centres to choose; these responses were not included in the following results. Eighty-two percent of respondents reported that the CCP helped them to attract qualified staff, with the same percentage reporting that it had reduced turnover. Eighty percent of centres felt that the CCP stabilized parent fees, and 54% said that it helped retain supported child care staff. Only 38% felt that the CCP had helped to attract supported child care staff.

Table C40 Awareness and Receipt of the Compensation Contribution, by Type of Care

Type of Care	% Aware of CCP	% Receiving CCP*
Group Under 3	93.8	88.9
Group 3 to 5	86.3	86.2
Out-of-School	86.0	83.8
Special Needs	80.0	91.7
Childminding	61.9	96.3
Preschool	73.5	84.9

* % Receiving CCP only applies to centres that were aware of CCP

Other Funding Sources

Other sources of operating funds were reported by 14.6% of centres. Group under 3 centres (33.5%) and special needs centres (23.1%) were most likely to report other sources of funding. The eight most frequently mentioned other funding sources were: Ministry for Children and Families (17%); Gaming Commission (16%); Aboriginal funding other than Aboriginal Head Start (14%); Aboriginal Head Start (13%); funding from the city, including the Inner City Grant from Vancouver (11%); fundraising in general (7%); Ministry of Social Development and Economic Security (6%); and donations (4%).

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR)

As Table C41 shows, there are regional differences in the CCRR “coverage,” as well as in the knowledge of centre-based facilities about their local Resource and Referral programs. In five of the 20 HRs, 20% or more of the facilities do not know if they have a local CCRR. This is an improvement since the 1997 provincial child care survey, when

this was true in 10 HRs. Four of the current five are in the Lower Mainland or in the Capital HR. The proportion of “no” responses was higher in HRs, such as North West and Coast Garibaldi, where some facilities are not within the CCRR regional coverage.

<u>Health Region</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Don't know</u>	<u>Health Region</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
East Kootenay	0.0	92.1	7.9	Upper Island	0.0	87.6	12.4
West Kootenay	0.0	100.0	0.0	Cariboo	0.0	100.0	0.0
North Okanagan	0.0	94.9	5.1	North West	20.5	76.5	3.0
South Okanagan	0.0	100.0	0.0	Peace Liard	8.8	72.6	18.6
Thompson	5.0	85.8	9.2	Northern Interior	3.4	93.5	3.1
Fraser Valley	1.9	86.1	12.0	Vancouver	1.5	73.3	25.2
South Fraser Valley	1.8	83.7	14.5	Burnaby	4.4	74.8	20.8
Simon Fraser	2.3	75.4	22.4	North Shore	2.1	94.6	3.3
Coast Garibaldi	15.5	63.3	21.2	Richmond	0.0	100.0	0.0
Central Vancouver Island	0.0	95.7	4.3	Capital	0.9	62.9	36.2

For those facilities with a CCRR in their community (that providers know about), respondents were asked about their involvement in various CCRR-related services. Overall, as Table C42 indicates, there was no involvement with the CCRRs for 9.6% of facilities; the non-involvement rate has been approximately halved since 1997. Involvement in various services has increased across the board over the past four years, particularly in attendance at CCRR workshops and borrowing play equipment. Over half of all centres are members of their local CCRRs, and almost 60% are on the CCRR registry.

Table C42 Percentage of Facilities Involved in Various CCRR Services, 2001 vs. 1997		
CCRR Services	2001	1997
No involvement	9.6	18.5
Member of the CCRR	54.1	31.5
On the caregiver registry	58.8	34.7
Get insurance through CCRR	35.4	21.0
Attended workshops given by CCRR	61.8	37.8
Borrowed books from the CCRR	38.1	20.7
Borrowed play equipment from the CCRR	45.7	21.2
Received written materials from the CCRR	64.7	19.9
Attended local networking meetings	35.7	25.2
Other	9.5	9.3

In addition to involvement with various CCRR services, the survey also included an item asking for a satisfaction rating for five aspects of CCRR service: insurance, referrals, lending library, workshops, and helpfulness/support. Satisfaction with each service, where applicable, was rated on a four-point scale, where a score of 4 was associated with "very satisfied" and a score of 1 meant "very dissatisfied." The mean satisfaction scores, and the percentage of dissatisfied facilities, are found in Table C43. As was the case four years ago, satisfaction with CCRR services was high for most services. Referrals and networking were the areas of CCRR services with the lowest satisfaction ratings.

Table C43 Mean Satisfaction Scores and Percentage of Facilities Dissatisfied with CCRR Services, by Type of CCRR Service		
CCRR Service	Mean Score	% Dissatisfied
Equipment lending	3.51	8.3
Referrals	3.30	14.3
Lending Library	3.52	5.9
Workshops	3.47	8.1
Liability insurance	3.69	5.8
Centre visits	3.19	16.5
Newsletters	3.63	3.9
Networking	3.34	11.6

Other Sources of Support

Respondents were asked to indicate which other organizations have provided them with support in the past year. A list was provided, with the opportunity to add other sources of support. The top sources of support for facilities of each service type are listed in Tables C44 to C49. Note that many facilities offer more than one type of care. As a result, there is some crossover for each table. For example, Table C44 is for group 3 to 5 centres, but also contains a number of facilities offering group under 3 care. This will be reflected in relatively high percentages of such centres receiving support from the Infant Development Program.

Table C44 Other Sources of Support (%), for Group Under 3 Centres	
None listed	5.3
Early Childhood Educators of B.C.	33.1
Regional Health Unit	77.2
B.C. Association of Child Care Services	21.2
Supported Child Care	53.9
School Age Child Care Association of BC	6.3
BC Aboriginal Child Care Society	10.2
B.C. Alliance Concerned with Pregnancy and Early Parenting	14.8
Infant Development Program	33.6
Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre	66.5
• Child Care INFORM	54.9
• Multicultural and Diversity Services	18.4
• Westcoast Library	22.4
Other	12.2

Table C45 Other Sources of Support (%), for Group 3 to 5 Centres	
None listed	7.8
Early Childhood Educators of B.C.	26.3
Regional Health Unit	65.4
B.C. Association of Child Care Services	14.5
Supported Child Care	57.9
School Age Child Care Association of BC	8.6
BC Aboriginal Child Care Society	6.0
B.C. Alliance Concerned with Pregnancy and Early Parenting	1.5
Infant Development Program	14.9
Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre	62.4
• Child Care INFORM	45.5
• Multicultural and Diversity Services	14.5
• Westcoast Library	23.2
Other	8.4

Table C46 Other Sources of Support (%), for Preschool Centres	
None listed	11.7
Early Childhood Educators of B.C.	22.8
Regional Health Unit	60.7
B.C. Association of Child Care Services	9.1
Supported Child Care	55.8
School Age Child Care Association of BC	4.9
BC Aboriginal Child Care Society	1.7
B.C. Alliance Concerned with Pregnancy and Early Parenting	0.2
Infant Development Program	9.8
Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre	50.4
• Child Care INFORM	35.3
• Multicultural and Diversity Services	13.2
• Westcoast Library	19.9
Other	17.6

Table C47 Other Sources of Support (%), for Out of School Care Centres	
None listed	16.4
Early Childhood Educators of B.C.	18.0
Regional Health Unit	50.6
B.C. Association of Child Care Services	11.2
Supported Child Care	50.9
School Age Child Care Association of BC	22.5
BC Aboriginal Child Care Society	2.6
B.C. Alliance Concerned with Pregnancy and Early Parenting	0.6
Infant Development Program	6.1
Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre	55.5
• Child Care INFORM	40.9
• Multicultural and Diversity Services	10.7
• Westcoast Library	18.9
Other	6.8

Table C48 Other Sources of Support (%), for Childminding Centres	
None listed	8.1
Early Childhood Educators of B.C.	11.9
Regional Health Unit	72.9
B.C. Association of Child Care Services	2.2
Supported Child Care	44.6
School Age Child Care Association of BC	1.5
BC Aboriginal Child Care Society	1.6
B.C. Alliance Concerned with Pregnancy and Early Parenting	0.0
Infant Development Program	9.7
Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre	46.5
• Child Care INFORM	29.7
• Multicultural and Diversity Services	1.3
• Westcoast Library	9.7
Other	10.7

None listed	13.3
Early Childhood Educators of B.C.	26.7
Regional Health Unit	73.3
B.C. Association of Child Care Services	13.3
Supported Child Care	53.3
School Age Child Care Association of BC	13.3
BC Aboriginal Child Care Society	0.0
B.C. Alliance Concerned with Pregnancy and Early Parenting	6.7
Infant Development Program	46.7
Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre	66.7
• Child Care INFORM	60.0
• Multicultural and Diversity Services	53.3
• Westcoast Library	60.0
Other	13.3

Respondents were also asked if they receive any types of in-kind support from any sources. Provincially, 19.3% of centres reported receiving some sort of in-kind support. The seven most common types of in-kind support, in order of frequency, were: space/rent (73% of those getting in-kind support), janitorial (50%), utilities (39%), maintenance (19%), supplies (7%), administrative support (5%), and equipment or toys (4%). The eight most common sources of in-kind support, in order of frequency, were: School District/Board (37%), religious organization (15%), municipality/city (13%), post-secondary institution (8%), business (5%), community association (5%), First Nation band (4%), and parents or volunteers (4%).

Technology

In the province as a whole, 64.8% of centres make use of a computer. This percentage varied between HRs (Table C50), ranging from 40% of centres in Northern Interior HR to 82% of centres in North West HR. There was also a sizable difference between centres of different care types (Table C51); special needs centres had the highest percentage (87%), and childminding the lowest (54%).

East Kootenay	52.0	Upper Island	65.4
West Kootenay	68.7	Cariboo	82.1
North Okanagan	61.3	North West	57.3
South Okanagan	61.0	Peace Liard	67.0
Thompson	66.6	Northern Interior	40.3
Fraser Valley	68.1	Vancouver	67.4
South Fraser Valley	61.7	Burnaby	66.6
Simon Fraser	69.7	North Shore	61.4
Coast Garibaldi	57.6	Richmond	64.9
Central Vancouver Island	71.1	Capital	68.8

<u>Type of Care</u>	<u>% of Facilities</u>
Group Under 3	79.1
Group 3 to 5	71.5
Out-of-School	68.4
Special Needs	86.7
Childminding	53.5
Preschool	61.4

Centres that did not make use of a computer were asked about what would support them in using a computer. Funds to help purchase hardware and software was the most frequently chosen support (59%), followed by computer/software training (38%). Twelve percent of these centres reported that they were not interested in using a computer.

Of those centres that did make use of a computer, 38% had their own e-mail address (and a number of other centres indicated that they have access to e-mail). Fifty-four percent of those making use of computers used the Internet as part of their child care work. Of those using the Internet for child care work, 42% used it for education, training or professional development, 34% used it for information about government services and programs, 25% used it to connect with other child care organizations, and 11% to get CCRR information from the Internet. Eighty-two percent of centres that used a computer used it for creating forms. Bookkeeping was done on the computer for 56% of these centres, and 47% tracked enrolment using their computer. Finally, 26% reported doing their taxes on the computer, and 33% reported other child care-related ways that they used their computers.

Volunteers and Practicum Students

Table C52 shows the percentage of facilities of each service type that had volunteers (not including practicum students) at the time of the survey. Childminding facilities, preschools, and special needs centres were most likely to have volunteers; out-of-school care programs were the least likely.

Of those facilities with parents or other volunteers, the types of volunteers (parents, student volunteers, others) are summarized by type of care in Table C53. The most common use of parent volunteers was for preschools and childminding. Student volunteers were most common for special needs care, group under 3 care, out-of-school care, and group 3 to 5 care.

Table C52 Percentage of Facilities with Volunteers at Time of Survey, by Type of Care	
Group Under 3	60.2
Group 3 to 5	49.2
Out-of-School	40.8
Special Needs	66.7
Childminding	71.3
Preschools	60.9

Table C53 Types of Volunteers (%) for Those Facilities with Volunteers, by Type of Care			
Type of Care	Parents	Students	Others
Group Under 3	56.6	53.5	50.1
Group 3 to 5	51.1	40.2	40.4
Out-of-School	48.5	40.9	33.5
Special Needs	38.5	92.9	77.1
Childminding	61.5	19.7	36.1
Preschool	79.2	28.0	24.5

Table C54 indicates the types of help that parents and other volunteers provided at facilities of each service type. For all types of care, the most common type of parental help was with field trips, while other volunteers were most likely to help with the children.

Table C54 Type of Help Provided by Parents and Other Volunteers (% of Appropriate Facilities), by Type of Care

	<u>Group Under 3</u>		<u>Group 3 to 5</u>		<u>Out-of-School</u>		<u>Special Needs</u>		<u>Childminding</u>		<u>Preschool</u>	
	<u>Parent</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Parent</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Parent</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Parent</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Parent</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Parent</u>	<u>Other</u>
Field trips	41.4	28.8	55.8	29.6	49.7	33.8	73.7	68.0	51.8	10.3	83.2	20.2
Helping with children	30.7	65.0	22.9	56.3	21.4	53.7	40.3	70.1	29.3	40.4	51.3	36.6
Admin. / Bookkeeping	8.2	9.6	8.2	9.3	6.5	12.7	0.0	15.6	29.8	19.9	25.2	7.6
Cleaning, maintenance	19.6	38.3	18.9	32.5	14.1	26.2	7.1	59.7	30.0	26.8	32.7	18.9
Cooking	18.1	17.3	11.6	11.5	6.3	13.1	17.5	50.8	11.9	22.0	16.6	5.9
Other	17.1	14.5	12.0	11.4	9.2	12.9	19.2	19.2	25.3	9.9	13.6	4.4

As Table C55 shows, fewer than half of centre-based facilities had any practicum students at the centre during the week of April 2 to 6, 2001. Childminding and out-of-school care facilities were least likely to have practicum students during that time. Group under 3 facilities were most likely to have practicum students, at almost half of the facilities. The under 3 facilities with practicum students also had the greatest average number of students, at 2.1.

<u>Type of Care</u>	<u>% with Practicum Students</u>	<u>Mean # of Students</u>	<u>Median # of Students</u>
Group Under 3	43.7	2.0	1.0
Group 3 to 5	37.3	1.7	1.0
Out-of-School	22.8	1.5	1.0
Special Needs	50.1	1.8	1.5
Childminding	13.4	1.7	2.0
Preschool	37.1	1.4	1.0

In the context of the entire previous year (as opposed to the reference week), a much greater proportion of facilities had practicum students (see Table C56). The only type of care with fewer than half of facilities having practicum students was childminding. The median number of practicum students per facility per year was highest for special needs care.

Table C56 Percentage of Facilities with Any Practicum Students During Past Year, and Mean and Median Number of Practicum Students for Facilities with At Least One Practicum Student in The Past Year, by Type of Care

<u>Type of Care</u>	<u>% with Practicum Students</u>	<u>Mean # of Students</u>	<u>Median # of Students</u>
Group Under 3	85.5	4.3	3.0
Group 3 to 5	78.7	3.7	3.0
Out-of-School	56.2	3.0	2.0
Special Needs	95.0	5.5	4.7
Childminding	42.1	2.5	2.0
Preschool	70.0	3.0	2.0

Paid Staff

In the 2001 survey, respondents were asked to list, for each paid child care staff, their job position, highest level of education and training, hourly wage, and the average number of paid hours per week. In the previous provincial survey, respondents were only asked to indicate the number of staff in various categories relating to these variables. This did not allow for any summary analyses of the mean or median scores on important variables such as wages or hours worked.

Even with this increase in the level of information gathered, there is still the difficulty that many facilities are licensed for more than one type of care. In addition, some surveys were completed for several programs using one survey form. Because of these realities, double-counting of staff cannot be avoided. Thus, there is no way to weight the data for the different types of care, as was done for other variables (e.g., enrolment and capacity). The staff results are reported as unweighted means, medians, and percentages. Data were recorded for 3,967 paid child care staff who either work with children or do administrative work at their centres. Volunteers, cooks, janitorial staff, and Supported Child Care staff employed elsewhere were not included.

Hourly Wage and Paid Hours of Work

Table C57 shows the mean and median hourly wage and number of weekly paid hours, by type of care. These means are for staff in all positions, from administrators to assistants. Wages were lowest in out of school care, and highest in special needs child care. Excluding special needs care, there was a relatively narrow range of average hourly wages across service types – wages for those in group under 3 care were just 12% higher than for those in out of school care. Staff in special needs centres worked the most average hours per week, while childminding staff worked substantially fewer hours on average than those in other types of care.

Table C57 Mean and Median Hourly Wage and Number of Paid Hours Per Week, by Type of Care

<u>Type of Care</u>	<u>Hourly Wage (\$)</u>		<u>Paid Hours per Week</u>	
	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Median</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Median</u>
Group Under 3	14.39	14.17	33.3	35.0
Group 3 to 5	13.63	13.00	32.8	35.0
Out-of-School	12.82	12.00	29.1	31.3
Special Needs	18.29	16.68	35.1	37.5
Childminding	13.25	13.00	21.6	20.0
Preschool	14.18	13.95	27.4	30.0

Table C58 shows a breakdown of average hourly wage by HR and type of care. These results, in particular, should be regarded with extreme caution, because some means are based on small numbers of staff.

Table C58 Mean Hourly Wage (\$) for Paid Child Care Staff, by Type of Care and Health Unit

<u>Health Region</u>	<u>Group Under 3</u>	<u>Group 3 to 5</u>	<u>Out of School</u>	<u>Special Needs</u>	<u>Childminding</u>	<u>Preschool</u>
East Kootenay	10.97	12.06	12.27	--	11.50	12.36
West Kootenay	12.89	13.53	13.60	--	10.51	12.11
North Okanagan	11.84	11.87	11.58	--	13.57	11.79
South Okanagan	11.81	10.84	10.87	--	9.69	12.22
Thompson	12.00	11.95	11.78	13.22	12.55	13.11
Fraser Valley	14.21	12.82	11.81	--	9.55	12.32
South Fraser Valley	12.62	12.21	12.05	--	--	13.50
Simon Fraser	15.31	12.21	11.58	19.53	9.84	13.10
Coast Garibaldi	14.14	13.88	13.82	--	15.98	13.40
Central Van. Island	13.91	13.40	12.35	--	11.25	13.38
Upper Island	13.08	12.41	12.58	--	10.50	13.30
Cariboo	11.79	11.71	12.39	--	11.21	11.34
North West	13.52	12.94	13.36	--	14.50	14.28
Peace Liard	16.06	12.31	12.51	--	14.81	14.90
Northern Interior	16.10	14.80	10.57	--	18.72	13.23
Vancouver	17.43	16.26	14.95	19.38	16.77	16.44
Burnaby	15.60	13.79	12.97	24.72	--	15.24
North Shore	16.18	15.53	13.69	--	--	16.21
Richmond	15.25	14.62	12.28	15.86	12.89	16.23
Capital	15.30	14.48	13.71	15.64	10.92	14.72

Full-time vs. Part-time Staff

Table C59 shows that centre-based facilities rely a great deal on part-time employees (defined as those working less than 30 hours per week). Forty-one percent of paid staff overall worked part-time, with the highest percentages in the part-day services, such as out-of-school care, childminding and preschool.

Table C59 Full-time vs. Part-time Jobs (% of Paid Staff), by Type of Care		
Type of Care	Full-time	Part-time
Group Under 3	81.4	18.6
Group 3 to 5	76.1	23.9
Out-of-School	57.1	42.9
Special Needs	86.5	13.5
Childminding	29.0	71.0
Preschool	50.6	49.4
Overall	59.0	41.0

Gender of Paid Staff

Table C60 shows that 94% of paid staff in centre-based care are female. The only types of care where male workers account for 5% or more of the total was for out-of-school care (11%) and special needs care (5%).

Type of Care	Female	Male
Group Under 3	97.4	2.6
Group 3 to 5	96.1	3.9
Out-of-School	88.7	11.3
Special Needs	99.2	0.8
Childminding	94.7	5.3
Preschool	95.8	4.2
Overall	93.6	6.4

Job Position

In the 1993 Provincial Child Care Survey, the item on job position asked for the name of the job for each staff person. The resulting large number of job titles made it impossible to summarize the results. The question was altered in the 1997 version of the survey to concentrate on the job roles, rather than the title of the position. Two basic job roles were identified: care of children and administrative duties. The item asked for the number of paid staff that did one or the other or both.

This breakdown worked reasonably well, but it was felt that another attempt could be made for the 2001 survey to ask respondents for each staff by their job position. Respondents made reference to about 50 different job positions overall, making it challenging to summarize this variable into a limited number of categories. In the end, a five-way classification was developed, mostly based on job roles. These five categories are: administration only, administration plus child care, supervisor, child care only, and assistant. Given the difficulty of coding job titles into distinct job roles, it is strongly recommended for future provincial child care surveys that respondents be given pre-specified job titles and/or job roles for an item such as this.

Table C61 shows the percentage of staff in each of these five categories, by type of care and overall. In Table C62, the mean hourly wage for each job category is shown, again

by type of care and overall. For both Tables C61 and C62, it must be kept in mind that it was not possible to distinguish, for centres with more than one type of care, whether a particular staff worked in one type of care or the other(s).

<u>Type of Care</u>	<u>Admin only</u>	<u>Child care and admin</u>	<u>Supervisor</u>	<u>Child care only</u>	<u>Assistant</u>
Group Under 3	10.9	9.2	16.2	41.7	21.9
Group 3 to 5	11.7	8.1	19.2	39.8	21.2
Out-of-School	13.2	6.3	20.3	42.0	18.2
Special Needs	7.4	6.4	6.4	72.3	7.4
Childminding	10.1	14.2	21.6	27.0	27.0
Preschool	12.5	8.9	26.3	29.8	22.5
Overall	12.6	8.3	20.9	37.6	20.6

<u>Type of Care</u>	<u>Admin only</u>	<u>Child care and admin</u>	<u>Supervisor</u>	<u>Child care only</u>	<u>Assistant</u>
Group Under 3	17.85	15.13	14.68	14.33	11.67
Group 3 to 5	16.65	15.08	14.15	13.40	11.72
Out-of-School	16.79	13.99	13.34	11.62	11.09
Special Needs	26.13	21.86	22.21	16.70	15.38
Childminding	15.65	15.21	14.41	11.65	12.17
Preschool	17.30	15.66	14.98	13.13	11.62
Overall	17.08	15.43	14.61	13.28	11.68

Staff Benefits

Respondents indicated any benefits that staff could access, in addition to employer-required benefits. Table C63 shows the pattern of these additional benefits. Overall, 43% of staff had no additional benefits; this was highest for staff in childminding and preschool centres. By contrast, 82% of special needs centre staff, and 65% of staff in group under 3 centres received extended medical benefits. For those centres where staff received basic medical, this benefit was paid entirely by the employer in the majority of centres. For those staff with extended medical, this benefit tended to be shared equally between employer and employee. Provincially, where benefits were offered, all staff had access to these benefits in 44% of the centres. In the other 56% of the centres, eligibility depends on factors like full-time / part-time status (67% of these centres), probationary periods (25%), and being designated as having a permanent position (9%).

Type of Care	None	Basic medical	Extended medical	Other benefits
Group Under 3	19.1	45.8	64.5	59.1
Group 3 to 5	35.3	28.0	39.7	38.5
Out-of-School	39.2	24.0	35.6	30.1
Special Needs	0.0	67.4	81.7	76.9
Childminding	63.7	11.7	18.3	13.1
Preschool	49.7	19.0	23.9	25.8
Overall	43.3	24.6	31.8	29.7

Weeks of Paid Vacation

The most common range of weeks of vacation was from two to three weeks. Forty-two percent of centres had a one-week range between the lowest and highest weeks of staff vacation, with 31% having a two-week range. Forty-one percent of centres provided information about what the number of vacation weeks depends on. Years of employment was by far the most common criterion, mentioned by 88% of those who responded to the question. Five per cent mentioned full-time/part-time status or the number of hours worked, and for 4% of respondents, the number of vacation weeks depended on staff position.

Training and Education

The training and education variable is similar to job position in that respondents wrote in the highest training and education for each staff, rather than choosing from existing categories, as in 1997. It was felt that this would give respondents more leeway to include a wide variety of educational attainments. This was certainly the case, which made the analysis of the results more challenging to interpret. For example, a number of responses consisted of “post-basic” without specifying the type of post-basic education, or “training” or “taking courses” without specifying if the training or courses were ECE-related or not.

Table C64 shows selected attainments in education and training of paid staff, for each type of care. Childminding and out-of-school care have the highest percentage of staff without any ECE or related training. Almost 70% of staff in centre-based care (69.4%) were registered ECE; this proportion was highest in group under 3 care (82.4%), group 3 to 5 care (77%) and preschools (74.9%). Thirty-seven percent of staff in group under 3 centres had registered Post-basic Infant/Toddler qualifications; similarly, 53.1% of staff at special needs centres had Post-basic Special Needs qualifications.

Table C64 Staff Training and Education, by Type of Service

Type of Service	Group Under 3	Group 3 to 5	Out of School	Special Needs	Child Minding	Preschool
No ECE or related	3.2%	4.8%	14.9%	1.0%	14.7%	5.8%
Registered ECE	82.4%	77.0%	50.9%	92.7%	51.9%	74.9%
Registered Infant/Toddler	36.6%	18.4%	7.6%	38.5%	8.5%	9.9%
Registered Special Needs	12.6%	10.5%	5.9%	53.1%	0.0%	8.4%
School age Certificate	0.9%	1.3%	4.3%	0.0%	0.0%	1.5%
Human Services Degree	1.9%	2.5%	4.3%	3.1%	7.0%	3.9%
Other related training	2.7%	3.9%	5.0%	0.0%	3.9%	7.3%

Length of Time Employed at Current Facility

Overall, the median time category employed at the current facility was 2 to 4 years. As Table C65 shows, this was consistent across the different types of care. Special needs staff were the most stable, as 40% had worked at the same facility for at least five years. Preschool staff were also relatively stable, as 38% had been in the same centre for at least five years. Out of school care had the largest proportion of staff employed for less than one year at the current centre.

Table C65 Length of Time at Current Facility (% of Paid Staff), by Type of Care						
Type of Care	< 6 mo.	6-11 mo.	12-23 mo.	2-4 yr.	5-10 yr.	> 10 yr.
Group Under 3	9.4	9.2	16.2	28.1	27.3	9.9
Group 3 to 5	11.4	12.2	16.4	26.5	22.2	11.4
Out-of-School	15.1	18.1	18.4	23.7	16.7	8.0
Special Needs	6.0	6.7	22.4	32.1	19.4	20.9
Childminding	8.3	21.2	10.9	32.1	17.9	9.6
Preschool	9.0	13.5	14.5	25.0	24.1	14.0
Overall	11.9	15.2	15.2	24.4	21.3	12.0

Staff Turnover

Overall, 22% of paid staff had left their employment at the facility in the previous 12 months. Of those staff that left, 20% were expected to return. These results are broken down by type of care in Table C66. Out-of-school facilities had the highest turnover rate at 26%, and special needs programs the lowest at 13%. Staff who left special needs and childminding centres were least likely to be expected to return, though there was little variation in expected return rates across the different types of care.

Type of Care	% Turnover	% Returning
Group Under 3	19.2	23.0
Group 3 to 5	21.2	20.4
Out-of-School	26.2	17.3
Special Needs	13.4	16.7
Childminding	19.9	22.6
Preschool	19.0	20.0
Overall	22.1	20.1

Supported Child Care Staff

Centres were asked if they have any staff in the centre whose wages were paid through the Supported Child Care Range Payment authorization or contract. Overall, 33% of centres reported having this type of staff at their centre. The highest percentage was for special needs centres (55%), followed by group 3 to 5 centres (38%), preschools (38%), out of school facilities (37%), group under 3 centres (34%), and childminding centres (14%). Over the province, centres with such staff had a mean of 0.9 staff employed by the centre, 0.7 staff employed by a Supported Child Care Agency, and 0.07 staff employed elsewhere.

A follow up question was asked to determine if respondents felt that this aide support was sufficient to meet the needs of the centre's children. For centres with SCC aides, 63% percent reported that the support received was sufficient. This proportion was lowest for childminding centres (54%) and highest for group 3 to 5 centres (65%).

Some centres also make use of therapists, Supported Child Care Consultants, nursing and other health professionals, and others for their children who require additional support. Twenty-nine percent of centres reported that one or more therapists came to support their children. Supported Child Care Consultants came to 50% of responding

centres, and nurses and other health professionals came to 17% of centres. Seven percent of centres identified additional people in other categories.

Other People Employed by the Centre

Twenty-eight percent of responding centres said that they employed one or more janitors at their centre. Janitors worked an average of 10.0 hours per week at these centres. Only 4 % of centres reported employing a cook, for an average of 22.1 hours per week.

Unionized Facilities

Of the facilities that responded to the survey, 15.9% were unionized. This is a small increase from the results from the 1997 provincial survey, where the results showed 14.3% unionized facilities. The highest proportion of unionized facilities was 72.3% for special needs centres, followed by 32.3% for group under 3 programs, 16.3% for group 3 to 5 centres, 14.5% for out of school centres, 8.5% for preschools, and 2.9% for childminding facilities. Table C67 identifies the names of the unions, and the percentage of respondents associated with each.

Table C67 Unions Associated with Centres	
Name of Union	% of centres
B.C.G.E.U.	9.8
C.U.P.E.	3.8
H.S.A.	0.9
H.E.U.	0.5
P.P.W.C.	0.2
F.S.A.	0.2
P.E.A.	0.1
Talmud Torah Teachers' Association	0.1
C.S.S.E.A.	0.1
O.P.E.I.U.	0.1
I.U.O.E.	0.1

Major Themes of Respondents' Comments - Centre-based Child Care Survey

Open-ended comments were made on 326 centre-based surveys, in response to the question:

"Do you have any comments you would like to make regarding topics covered in this survey (e.g., fees, subsidies, licensing, supports)?"

Several themes were identified in the open-ended comments, as shown in Table C68.

Table C68 Major Themes of Respondents' Comments Centre-Based Child Care		
Themes	# of Comments	% of Comments
Supported Child Care	75	23.0
Subsidy rates	68	20.9
Financial Assistance Program	43	13.2
The Survey	42	12.9
Licensing/regulations	41	12.6
Low wages	37	11.3
Compensation Contribution Program	36	11.0
Private Centres	32	9.8
Need for funding	26	8.0
Fees/rates	23	7.1
Unique/Don't fit survey format	23	7.1
Costs/expenses	23	7.1
Ratio	18	5.5
Training	17	5.2
Respect/recognition	10	3.1
Qualified staff	10	3.1
Request information	9	2.8
Paperwork/administration time	9	2.8
Subsidy system	8	2.5
Love/satisfaction/pride re work	8	2.5
Staff turnover	7	2.1
Family child care	5	1.5
Child Care Resource and Referral	5	1.5
Young Parent Program	5	1.5
Aboriginal child care	4	1.2
Rural child care	4	1.2
Unionized child care	4	1.2

RESULTS - LICENSED FAMILY CHILD CARE (FCC) 2001 PROVINCIAL CHILD CARE SURVEY

Return Rates

Table F1 shows the return rates for the licensed family child care (FCC) survey. The overall return rate of 59% was lower than the 65% return achieved in the 1997 Provincial Survey. The highest return rates were for Coast Garibaldi and Cariboo, both over 70%. The only HR with a return rate under 50% was North West, at 47%. A concerted effort was made to maximize the return rate, including widespread pre-mail out announcements and a good deal of follow up focusing on regions with the lowest return rates. As predicted in the 1997 Provincial Child Care Survey report, return rates apparently reached an upper limit with the 1993 version of the survey, when 67% of licensed FCC providers responded. Still, licensed family providers all operate under the same child care service type, with very little variation in maximum capacity, and so with the return rates achieved, the results should be very reliable. The overall provincial precision of the results is ± 2 percent, 19 times out of 20.

Number of Family Child Care Facilities

As of April 2001, there were 2,382 licensed FCC facilities in B.C. Table F2 shows the number of facilities in each HR. This table also shows how the number of facilities has changed from 1997 to 2001. The 2,382 licensed FCC facilities in 2001 represents an increase of only 5% since 1997, but a 51% increase since 1993, and a 121% increase in the past 10 years. The regions of the province with the greatest increase since 1997 was Vancouver with a 91% increase, followed by Burnaby and Thompson, each with increases over 30%. Seven HRs had decreases in the number of facilities. These decreases were all under 10%, with the exception of Cariboo, which experienced a drop of 17%.

Table F1 Return Rates for Licensed Family Child Care Facilities			
<u>Health Region</u>	<u># of returns</u>	<u>Total # of facilities</u>	<u>Return Rate (%)</u>
East Kootenay	37	55	67.3
West Kootenay	29	51	56.9
North Okanagan	46	68	67.6
South Okanagan	88	154	57.1
Thompson	79	121	65.2
Fraser Valley	79	124	63.7
South Fraser Valley	176	294	59.9
Simon Fraser	147	275	53.5
Coast Garibaldi	28	39	71.8
Central Van. Island	139	233	59.7
Upper Island	51	88	58.0
Cariboo	50	70	71.4
North West	24	51	47.1
Peace Liard	12	20	60.0
Northern Interior	73	137	53.3
Vancouver	71	126	56.3
Burnaby	25	40	62.5
North Shore	46	87	52.9
Richmond	42	65	64.6
Capital	168	284	59.2
B.C. Total	1,410	2,382	59.2

Table F2 The Number of Facilities in Licensed FCC, 2001 vs. 1997			
<u>Health Region</u>	<u>2001 Facilities</u>	<u>1997 Facilities</u>	<u>% Change 1997-2001</u>
East Kootenay	55	54	+1.9
West Kootenay	51	47	+8.5
North Okanagan	68	67	+1.5
South Okanagan	154	166	-7.2
Thompson	121	93	+30.1
Fraser Valley	124	128	-3.1
South Fraser Valley	294	283	+3.9
Simon Fraser	275	245	+12.2
Coast Garibaldi	39	32	+21.9
Central Van. Island	233	256	-9.0
Upper Island	88	74	+18.9
Cariboo	70	84	-16.7
North West	51	54	-5.6
Peace Liard	20	18	+11.1
Northern Interior	137	141	-2.8
Vancouver	126	66	+90.9
Burnaby	40	30	+33.3
North Shore	87	77	+13.0
Richmond	65	65	No change
Capital	284	293	-3.1
B.C. Total	2,382	2,273	+4.8

Maximum Licensed Capacity

Table F3 displays the maximum licensed capacity of family child care facilities in B.C. There were 16,555 family child care spaces as of April 2001. This is an increase of 5% from the 15,746 spaces counted in 1997, and the 7,391 licensed FCC spaces that existed in 1991 have increased by 124% in 10 years. Again, the greatest increases in the past four years have been in the Vancouver, Burnaby and Thompson regions. For licensed family child care, the trends for number of facilities and number of spaces are essentially the same. The reason that licensed capacity is highly correlated to the number of facilities is that the vast majority of facilities are licensed for seven spaces.

Looking at changes in absolute numbers of facilities or spaces, as in Tables F2 and F3, can be somewhat deceiving. The changes in the number of facilities or spaces per 1,000 children may be quite different, depending upon population trends over time or between regions. This is illustrated in Table F4, where the number of child care spaces per 1,000 children aged 0 to 12 has been calculated for each HR. For example, in the Capital region, there was a 2.5% decrease in the absolute number of spaces from 1997 to 2001, yet the relative number of spaces increased from 43 to 46 per 1,000 children. There was both a decrease in supply (fewer spaces than in 1997) and a decrease in demand (fewer children). However, the latter decrease was bigger, and so the relative number of spaces increased. In B.C. as a whole, there were 27 licensed FCC spaces per 1,000 children in 2001, up from 24 per 1,000 in 1997 and 18 per 1,000 in 1993. This represents an additional three spaces of child care supply for every 1,000 children in the province, a 12.5% gain.

Table F3 Number of Licensed FCC Spaces, 2001 vs. 1997			
<u>Health Region</u>	<u>2001 Spaces</u>	<u>1997 Spaces</u>	<u>% Change 1997-2001</u>
East Kootenay	385	378	+2.1
West Kootenay	357	327	+9.2
North Okanagan	476	469	+1.5
South Okanagan	1,078	1,158	-6.9
Thompson	847	644	+31.5
Fraser Valley	868	893	-2.8
South Fraser Valley	2,058	1,973	+4.3
Simon Fraser	1,925	1,702	+13.1
Coast Garibaldi	273	222	+23.0
Central Van. Island	1,631	1,792	-9.0
Upper Island	616	516	+19.4
Cariboo	490	586	-16.4
North West	357	380	-6.1
Peace Liard	140	126	+11.1
Northern Interior	959	983	-2.4
Vancouver	780	394	+98.0
Burnaby	280	205	+36.6
North Shore	592	524	+13.0
Richmond	455	435	+4.6
Capital	1,988	2,038	-2.5
B.C. Total	16,555	15,746	+5.1

Enrolment

Table F5 shows the number of children enrolled in licensed FCC, broken down by age group, for each HR. Enrolment includes all children, whether attending full-time, part-time, or short stay; the providers' own children are also included in the enrolment figures. As of April 2001, there were 18,551 children enrolled in family child care in British Columbia. Of these, 13% were infants from 0 to 18 months old, 21% were toddlers aged 19 months to 35 months, 34% were preschoolers, and 31% were kindergarten and school age children. Fifty per cent of children were enrolled full-time (30 or more hours per week), 37% part-time (10 to 29 hours per week), and 13% short stay (under 10 hours per week). These last proportions are essentially unchanged from 1997, when 47% of children were enrolled full-time and 39% were enrolled part-time.

In Table F6, the enrolment of children in licensed FCC in 1997 is compared with the enrolment in 2001. Overall, there has been an increase of 9%, representing 1,551 more children in this type of care. There were enrolment gains for infants, but enrolment losses for toddlers, preschoolers and school age children. Comparisons between the 2001 and 1997 surveys are complicated by the fact that kindergarten children were included for the first time in the current survey. In previous surveys, these children may have been categorized as either preschool or school age.

Table F7 displays the enrolment figures from Table F5, but transformed into relative enrolment per 1,000 children. For each 1,000 children aged 0 to 12 in the province, there were 30 enrolled in licensed FCC. The age groups with the most children relatively enrolled were: older infants, followed by toddlers and preschoolers. Enrolment rates were significantly lower for infants under one year and school age children. Enrolment per 1,000 children also varied considerably between different regions of the province, from highs of 52 in Central Vancouver Island and 47 in the Cariboo, Thompson, and Capital regions, down to 10 in Burnaby, 11 in Peace Liard, and 12 in Vancouver.

Using enrolment per 1,000 children also allows direct comparisons across time. As Table F8 shows, there was a gain of 4 children enrolled in licensed FCC from 1997 to 2001, per 1,000 children in the province. The highest gains in relative enrolment were for infants, particularly those over one year old. Of interest is the pattern for toddlers and

preschoolers – in both cases, there was an increase in relative enrolment from 1997 to 2001, even though in absolute terms, enrolment numbers went down (see Table F6). For school-age children, there was both an absolute and a relative decline in enrolment. However, the additional enrolment category of kindergarten children in 2001 may explain some of this decline.

Another useful way to look at enrolment is to calculate the ratio of number of children enrolled per licensed space. This statistic gives a rough indication of how well available child care space has been used. The limitation of this ratio is that it does not take into account whether the enrolment is full-time, part-time or short stay - all three categories count equally. However, by combining this enrolment information with the results on vacancies, a picture of utilization of space emerges.

Table F9 shows the enrolment per space ratio for each HR, both in 2001 and 1997. Upper Island region was highest, with 1.44 children enrolled per space, while Burnaby was lowest with a ratio of 0.93. Overall, there has been a modest 4% rise in the enrolment per space ratio, from 1.08 to 1.12. This follows on a similar 5% rise that occurred between 1993 and 1997 (from 1.03 to 1.08). All but two regions had an increase in the enrolment per space ratio, though most increases were in the single digit range. Only North Okanagan region experienced a decrease (18%), while Simon Fraser region was unchanged from 1997.

Fifty-one percent of licensed FCC providers had one or more of their own children enrolled in their program, with an average of 1.72 own children enrolled. There were similar numbers of own children across the ages of 2 to 10, with relatively fewer own children aged 0, 1, 11 or 12. Drop-in children were accommodated by 67.5% of licensed FCC caregivers.

Providers were asked how many enrolled children received either the \$107 Support Payment or the Supported Child Care Range Payment. In 92.2% of licensed FCC programs, there were no children receiving either type of funding. For the other 7.8% of licensed FCC programs, there was a total (after weighting) of 88 children receiving only the \$107 Support Payment, 85 children receiving only the Supported Child Care Range Payment, and 92 receiving both payments.

Table F4 Licensed FCC Spaces per 1,000 Children, 2001 vs. 1997				
Health Region	2001 Spaces	2001 Population Under 13	# Licensed Spaces / 1000 Children	
			2001	1997
East Kootenay	385	12,903	30	27
West Kootenay	357	11,606	31	24
North Okanagan	476	17,868	27	23
South Okanagan	1,078	33,178	32	33
Thompson	847	21,721	39	27
Fraser Valley	868	44,983	19	19
South Fraser Valley	2,058	103,676	20	19
Simon Fraser	1,925	53,810	36	31
Coast Garibaldi	273	12,126	23	17
Central Van. Island	1,631	36,932	44	45
Upper Island	616	20,105	31	23
Cariboo	490	13,625	36	40
North West	357	18,444	19	18
Peace Liard	140	14,191	10	9
Northern Interior	959	24,744	39	37
Vancouver	780	67,301	12	6
Burnaby	280	25,932	11	9
North Shore	592	24,659	24	20
Richmond	455	22,685	20	18
Capital	1,988	43,543	46	43
B.C. Total	16,555	624,028	27	24

Table F5 Enrolment in Licensed Family Child Care, by Age Group of Children, by Health Region							
<u>Health Region</u>	<u>Infants Under 1 year</u>	<u>Infants 12-18 mos.</u>	<u>Toddlers 19-35 mos.</u>	<u>Preschoolers 3-5 years</u>	<u>Kindergarten Children</u>	<u>School-Age 6-12 years</u>	<u>Total Enrolment</u>
East Kootenay	13	37	85	165	62	61	424
West Kootenay	16	35	102	168	51	64	435
North Okanagan	21	19	133	222	81	91	567
South Okanagan	69	92	244	499	149	290	1,344
Thompson	53	68	174	375	102	248	1,021
Fraser Valley	36	77	196	334	119	202	964
South Fraser Valley	107	184	438	719	214	544	2,206
Simon Fraser	105	161	413	604	202	464	1,949
Coast Garibaldi	10	24	88	143	57	63	384
Central Van. Island	84	146	367	600	211	506	1,914
Upper Island	24	79	182	303	84	213	886
Cariboo	23	50	121	270	69	109	642
North West	18	22	95	149	67	73	424
Peace Liard	17	13	28	47	22	35	162
Northern Interior	66	99	216	392	116	229	1,119
Vancouver	38	91	254	250	73	77	783
Burnaby	10	22	67	91	19	48	258
North Shore	41	75	191	170	50	68	595
Richmond	22	44	113	163	32	49	423
Capital	98	172	476	716	207	383	2,052
B.C. Total	870	1,511	3,983	6,382	1,988	3,818	18,551

Table F6 Enrolment Comparison for Licensed FCC, 2001 vs. 1997			
<u>Age of Child</u>	<u>2001 Enrolment</u>	<u>1997 Enrolment</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Infants 0-11 months	870	743	+17.1
Infants 12-18 months*	1,511	1,122	+34.7
Toddlers 19-35 mos.*	3,983	4,206	-5.3
Preschoolers 3-5 yrs.	6,382	6,690	-4.6
Kindergarten children	1,988	Not asked	--
School Age 6-12 yrs.	3,818	4,239	-9.9
Total	18,551	17,000	+9.1

* Age definitions changed slightly for the 2001 survey. In 1997, toddlers defined as 18-35 months.

Table F7 Enrolment in Licensed Family Child Care per 1,000 Children by Age Group of Children, by Health Region

<u>Health Region</u>	<u>Infants 0-11 mos.</u>	<u>Infants 12-18 mos.</u>	<u>Toddlers 19-35 mos.</u>	<u>Preschoolers 3-5 years</u>	<u>Kindergarten Children</u>	<u>School Age 6-12 years</u>	<u>Total</u>
East Kootenay	17	98	72	62	61	8	33
West Kootenay	23	101	99	71	59	9	37
North Okanagan	21	38	83	60	60	8	32
South Okanagan	34	87	77	70	57	15	41
Thompson	42	109	87	79	59	19	47
Fraser Valley	12	50	43	33	33	8	21
South Fraser Valley	16	52	40	30	26	9	21
Simon Fraser	30	86	74	50	47	15	36
Coast Garibaldi	13	62	73	55	59	9	32
Central Van. Island	40	134	109	76	74	22	52
Upper Island	21	136	98	69	53	18	44
Cariboo	28	120	93	87	66	14	47
North West	16	39	55	36	44	7	23
Peace Liard	19	28	20	15	19	4	11
Northern Interior	45	135	92	72	59	16	45
Vancouver	7	33	31	15	14	2	12
Burnaby	5	22	22	15	9	4	10
North Shore	26	90	76	32	26	5	24
Richmond	14	57	47	32	18	4	19
Capital	36	122	111	74	60	15	47
B.C. Total	21	72	62	46	40	11	30

Table F8 Enrolment per 1,000 Children Comparison for Licensed Family Child Care, 2001 vs. 1997			
<u>Age of Child</u>	<u>2001 Enrolment per 1,000 Children</u>	<u>1997 Enrolment per 1,000 Children</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Infants 0-11 months	21	15	+40.0
Infants 12-18 months*	72	46	+56.5
Toddlers 19-35 mos.*	62	57	+8.8
Preschoolers 3-5 yrs.	46	45	+2.2
Kindergarten children	40	Not asked	--
School Age 6-12 yrs.	11	12	-8.3
Total	30	26	+15.4

* Age definitions changed slightly for the 2001 survey. In 1997, toddlers defined as 18-35 months.

Table F9 Enrolment per Licensed Space in Licensed Family Child Care, 2001 vs. 1997			
<u>Health Region</u>	<u>2001 Enr. / Space</u>	<u>1997 Enr. / Space</u>	<u>% Change</u>
East Kootenay	1.10	1.09	+1
West Kootenay	1.22	1.22	0
North Okanagan	1.19	1.46	-18
South Okanagan	1.25	1.20	+4
Thompson	1.21	1.18	+3
Fraser Valley	1.11	1.03	+8
South Fraser Valley	1.07	1.04	+3
Simon Fraser	1.01	1.01	0
Coast Garibaldi	1.41	1.40	+1
Central Van. Island	1.17	1.12	+4
Upper Island	1.44	1.20	+20
Cariboo	1.31	1.24	+6
North West	1.19	1.10	+8
Peace Liard	1.16	1.11	+5
Northern Interior	1.17	1.04	+13
Vancouver	1.00	0.87	+15
Burnaby	0.92	0.90	+2
North Shore	1.01	1.00	+1
Richmond	0.93	0.88	+6
Capital	1.03	0.97	+6
B.C. Total	1.12	1.08	+4

Fees

In the questionnaire, respondents had the choice to report their fees as hourly, semi-daily, daily, or monthly. Many family child caregivers reported their fees in more than one category; i.e., both daily and monthly. This information was used to calculate the conversion factors between hourly, daily, and monthly fees. This way, all fees could be analyzed together, rather than having a separate analysis for those who reported

monthly fees vs. those reporting daily fees. To remain consistent with past Provincial Survey practices, all fees were converted to daily fees, except for school age children whose fees were calculated as hourly.

Table F10 shows the mean fees in the province for each age group of children. Infant fees in 2001 averaged over \$29 per day, and toddler fees averaged over \$28 per day. Compared to 1997, fees have increased by approximately 10% for all age groups, except for school age children, whose fees increased by over 25% to almost \$4 per hour.

<u>Age of Child</u>	<u>Mean Daily Fee 2001</u>	<u>Mean Daily Fee 1997</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Infants 0-11 months	\$29.48	\$26.81	+10.0
Infants 12-18 months	\$28.93	\$26.36	+9.7
Toddlers 19-35 months	\$28.05	\$25.53	+9.9
Preschoolers 3-5 years	\$26.74	\$24.44	+9.4
Kindergarten children	\$24.37	Not asked	--
School Age 6-12 years	\$3.94	\$3.14	+25.5

* Age definitions changed slightly for the 2001 survey. In 1997, toddlers defined as 18-35 months.

+ School age fees are per hour.

Fees per age group are broken down by HR in Table F11. The highest mean fees were for the Lower Mainland regions: Vancouver, North Shore and Burnaby, each with mean infant fees of \$35 per day or more. The lowest fees in the province were found in the four Kootenay and Okanagan HRs.

Licensed FCC caregivers were asked to report on their fees for services offered outside of their regular hours. Fourteen percent of caregivers provided fees for evening care. These fees were most commonly expressed as an hourly rate, with a mean of \$5.21 (median \$5.00). Nine percent of caregivers provided fees for overnight care. These fees were most commonly expressed as a daily rate, with a mean of \$32.89 (median \$30). Twelve percent of caregivers provided fees for weekend care. Weekend fees were most commonly quoted as a daily rate, with a mean of \$35.73 (median \$30).

Caregivers were also asked if they charged a higher fee in some situations. Sixty-three percent charged a higher fee for late pick up, 56% for extended hours, and 28% for a meal program.

Some caregivers also charge fees on days when they are closed. This was true for 6.6% of caregivers for school spring break, 3.5% for school summer break, 12.7% for Christmas break, 5.9% for school professional days, 54.9% for statutory holidays, 10.5% for caregiver vacations, and 3.3% for caregiver professional development.

<u>Health Region</u>	<u>0 to 11 mos.</u>	<u>12 to 18 mos.</u>	<u>19 to 35 mos.</u>	<u>3 to 5 years</u>	<u>Kindergarten age</u>	<u>6 to 12 years*</u>
East Kootenay	24.20	23.50	23.60	22.47	19.52	3.31
West Kootenay	25.92	25.81	26.31	24.69	22.14	3.73
North Okanagan	25.11	24.65	23.50	22.62	20.66	3.39
South Okanagan	25.40	25.51	24.83	23.99	21.76	3.52
Thompson	28.59	27.90	27.41	25.40	23.42	3.82
Fraser Valley	28.09	27.50	26.68	25.79	23.78	4.03
South Fraser Valley	31.29	30.51	29.44	27.94	26.72	4.18
Simon Fraser	31.34	30.33	29.57	27.51	26.23	4.05
Coast Garibaldi	27.66	27.96	26.97	26.49	23.53	4.07
Central Van. Island	26.46	26.18	25.64	24.87	23.35	3.65
Upper Island	27.10	26.81	25.70	24.80	21.51	3.63
Cariboo	26.79	26.34	25.78	25.04	21.95	3.74
North West	27.33	26.83	26.92	26.46	21.54	3.94
Peace Liard	26.43	26.71	26.89	26.33	21.50	4.16
Northern Interior	26.37	25.77	25.04	24.64	22.14	3.95
Vancouver	39.06	38.05	36.09	33.66	29.32	5.00
Burnaby	35.61	35.01	32.45	30.47	27.55	4.66
North Shore	37.76	36.85	35.40	35.29	32.96	5.00
Richmond	33.64	32.77	31.66	29.77	27.51	4.49
Capital	29.97	29.31	28.28	27.04	24.85	3.77
B.C. Total	29.48	28.93	28.05	26.74	24.37	3.94

* hourly rate for school age

Days Open Per Week

Table F12 shows the percentage of licensed FCC providers that are open each of the days of the week. Almost all providers are open from Monday to Friday, with only slightly fewer on Monday and Friday. Few providers open on weekends, though slightly more than in 1997. Only 6.3% are open more than five days per week, compared to 3.7% open less than five days and 90% open five days per week.

Day of the Week	% 2001 Facilities Open	% 1997 Facilities Open
Mondays	98.6	98.3
Tuesdays	99.7	99.9
Wednesdays	99.6	99.9
Thursdays	99.5	99.8
Fridays	97.7	98.7
Saturdays	7.2	6.0
Sundays	4.2	3.7

Hours Open Per Day/Week

Licensed family child care facilities were open for a mean of 10.13 hours per day, slightly less than the mean of 10.25 hours per day in 1997. The median hours open was 10.0, the same as four years earlier. On a weekly basis, the majority of facilities are open between 45 and 50 hours per week; however, another 39% are open more than 50 hours (see Table F13).

<u>Hours Open per Week</u>	<u>% Facilities 2001</u>	<u>% Facilities 1997</u>
Less than 45	6.1	5.2
45 to 50	55.2	52.2
51 to 60	32.8	35.9
More than 60	5.9	6.7

Special Requests for Child Care

Licensed family child care providers were asked how many special requests for care they had in the past year from parents of children enrolled in their program. Specifically, they were asked about requests to open earlier than usual, close later than usual (asked in advance), take a child overnight, or take a child on the weekend. Table F14 summarizes the number of mean number of requests in each of these categories, and how often, on average, providers granted those requests. The results show that requests to close later than usual were most common at 6.6 per year, and requests for overnight care only happened on average less than once per year. The distribution of requests was quite skewed, as reflected in the lower median values.

Compliance with special requests was quite high for opening early or closing late, averaging about 80%. The rate of compliance was lower for requests for overnight care, and especially for weekend care. Compliance rates in 2001 were lower than in 1997, especially for weekend care.

Table F14 Yearly Special Requests for Licensed FCC – Mean, Median, and % Compliance, 2001 vs. 1997						
Type of Request	2001			1997		
	Mean	Median	% Granted	Mean	Median	% Granted
Open Earlier than Usual	5.0	2	80.1	4.9	1	86.0
Close Later than Usual	6.6	2	78.4	5.9	1	83.4
Overnight Care	0.7	0	67.7	1.0	0	74.5
Weekend Care	1.3	0	48.4	1.7	0	64.1

Program Closures

Ninety per cent of licensed FCC facilities had regular yearly closures. The mean length of time closed per year was 22.1 days; the median length of time closed was 20 days. Reasons for regular closures, in order of frequency were: caregiver vacation (72.8% of caregivers), statutory holidays (72.7%), Christmas (36.8%), summer (14.5%), school spring break (11.8%), caregiver professional development (5.7%), and school professional development days (1.5%).

Providers were also asked if they had any temporary unscheduled closures in the past year. Thirty percent of facilities had experienced such closures. The mean number of days closed was 7.4, and the median was three days. (The lower median value indicates the skewed nature of the distribution.) Caregivers were given five different reasons for these closures to choose from, and an “other” category. In order of frequency, the reasons for these temporary closures were: personal reasons (54.2% of caregivers), other (35.7%), low enrolment (3.8%), change of location (2.1%), insufficient or unqualified staff (0.4%), and financial reasons (0.2%).

Intentions to Remain as a Licensed Family Child Care Provider

Respondents reported on how much longer they plan to carry on as a licensed FCC provider. Twenty-nine percent of respondents did not know, 49.4% plan on providing this type of care for more than three years, 17.5% plan to stay for one to three years, and only 4.5% intend to leave this type of work in less than one year. These proportions are almost exactly the same as the results from licensed FCC caregivers in 1997.

Licensing – Length of Time Licensed

Table F15 shows that almost half of responding licensed FCC facilities have been in existence for more than five years. Only 2% of facilities reported receiving their licence or interim permit in the last six months.

Table F15 Length of Time with Licence or Interim Permit	
	<u>% of Facilities</u>
Less than six months	1.9
Six months to less than one year	8.8
One year to less than two years	10.4
Two to three years	17.8
Four to five years	14.6
More than five years	46.5

Licensed FCC providers who were licensed in 1998 or later were asked, after all paperwork was complete, how long it took to receive their interim permit or licence. The results (see Table F16) show that 44% of caregivers received their licence or interim permit within one month, with 87% getting theirs within three months.

Table F16 Length of Time to Receive Licence or Interim Permit	
	<u>% of Facilities</u>
0 to 30 days	43.9
31 to 90 days	42.7
91 to 180 days	9.6
181 to 365 days	3.3
More than 365 days	0.4

Main Benefits and Drawbacks of Being Licensed

Licensed FCC providers were asked to give their opinion on the benefits and drawbacks of being licensed. The most common benefits reported are listed in Table F17 below. The percentages do not include the 11.9% of licensed FCC caregivers who did not respond to this item.

Table F17 Licensed FCC Reported Benefits of Being Licensed, 2001	
	<u>% of Facilities</u>
Parent preference for licensed facilities	41.4
Quality assurance, maintenance of standards	23.8
Support/advice/information from Licensing Officers	22.2
Child Care Resource and Referral	17.1
Insurance	16.4
Increased capacity	14.4
High level of safety and security	13.1
Feeling professional, respected, legitimate	11.0
Government grants	8.5

Table F18 shows the most commonly reported drawbacks of licensing. Again, the percentages do not include the 20.7% of caregivers who did not answer this question.

Table F18 Licensed FCC Reported Drawbacks of Being Licensed, 2001	
	<u>% of Facilities</u>
No drawbacks	24.4
Limitations in the numbers and ages of children allowed	21.8
Restrictive rules and regulations in general	16.8
Unannounced or inconvenient inspections	10.7
Dealing with Licensing Officers (attitude, respect, etc.)	7.3
Expense associated with being licensed	7.3
Inconsistent interpretation of regulations by Licensing Officers	6.2
Paperwork, administration time	5.2
Too many rules and regulations	4.4

Time Since Last Inspection

All licensed FCC facilities that were in existence for at least one year at the time of the survey were asked when they last received an inspection from a Licensing Officer. As Table F19 shows, over half of the licensed FCC facilities had been inspected within the previous six months, and 84% had been inspected within the previous year.

Table F19 Time Since Last Inspection, Licensed FCC Facilities in 2001	
	<u>% of Facilities</u>
Never received an inspection	0.2
Less than 6 months ago	51.8
Six months to less than 1 year	32.3
One year to less than 2 years	14.2
Two to 3 years	1.4
More than 3 years	0.1

Feelings About Selected Mandatory Licensing Requirements

Table F20 shows caregivers' feelings about the strictness or weakness of seven different areas of licensing requirements. In all seven areas, a majority of caregivers felt that the current requirement is "about right." There were two requirements – outdoor space and play equipment, and staff to child ratios – for which there were substantially more caregivers in the "too strict" category than in the "too weak" category. There was also some similar support for restricting smoking even more than currently mandated.

	<u>Too strict (%)</u>	<u>About right (%)</u>	<u>Too weak (%)</u>
Staff qualifications	7.5	82.2	10.2
Staff to child ratios	28.0	69.7	2.3
Record keeping and consents	14.8	84.4	0.7
Emergency procedures, first aid, medication storage	8.2	90.8	1.0
Outdoor space and play equipment	28.0	70.6	1.4
Indoor space and play equipment	8.4	90.0	1.6
Smoking	2.1	85.3	12.6

Vacancies and Turnover

In spite of the provincial enrolment to capacity ratio of 1.12, 40% of licensed FCC facilities reported that they were not fully enrolled during the week of April 2 to 6, 2001. This proportion has declined since 1997, when 48.4% of programs were not full. In total, there were an estimated 1,263 vacant full-time spaces, 1,045 vacant part-time spaces, and 692 vacant school-age spaces in licensed family child care facilities. Taken together, there was an average of 3.1 vacant spaces (median = 2) for each facility with vacancies.

As a rough measure of turnover of enrolled children, providers were asked how many of the currently enrolled children have been at the facility for one year or more. In this

analysis, providers who were licensed for less than one year were excluded. Seventy per cent of all children enrolled in licensed FCC have been at the facility for at least one year, up from 66% in 1997.

Child Care Subsidies

Provincially, 66.7% of facilities reported having at least one subsidized child enrolled during the reference week. This percentage continues the trend of a slow increase over time, as the proportion was 65.7% in 1997 and 64.3% in 1993. Of the 18,551 children enrolled, 4,261 (23.0%) were reported as subsidized, exactly the same as four years earlier. Providers reported that 65% children were receiving the maximum subsidy, and 35% were receiving partial subsidy. The total number of subsidized children in licensed FCC in British Columbia as of April 1997, broken down by age group, is shown in Table F21. In 2001, 10.7% of subsidized children in licensed FCC were infants, compared to 6.9% in 1997. There was a corresponding drop in the percentage of subsidized children who were preschool age – from 45.3% in 1997 to 36.9% in 2001.

Licensed FCC caregivers were also asked if they typically charge parents any of the difference between the subsidy amount and their actual fee. Almost three-quarters (74%) of caregivers reported charging all of the difference in fees, with 13.9% charging some of the difference, and 11.9% not charging any of the difference.

<u>Age Group</u>	<u># Subsidized Children</u>	<u>% Subsidized Children</u>
Infants 0 to 11 months	152	3.6
Infants 12 to 18 months	303	7.1
Toddlers 19 to 35 months	999	23.4
Preschool age	1,572	36.9
Kindergarten children	467	11.0
School age	767	18.0
Total	4,261	100.0

Supported Child Care

Licensed family child care providers were asked about their knowledge of and involvement with Supported Child Care (SCC), as well as SCC programs and consultants. Eighty-two per cent of licensed FCC providers reported that they were aware of SCC (up from 75% in 1997) and 77% reported that they know who to call in the local community for information about supported child care. When asked whether there was an SCC Consultant or Coordinator serving their community, 60% answered yes, and 39% didn't know. In 1997, 54% answered yes, and 44% didn't know.

In spite of this relatively high level of awareness, there was still little involvement as well as some confusion among licensed FCC providers about supported child care. Seventy-one percent of licensed FCC providers were not involved with their local SCC program, which is higher than the 68% of caregivers in 1997 during the transition to SCC. Of those that stated an involvement, 16% clearly showed that they were confusing the SCC program with Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR), formerly named the Child Care Support Program. The top five actual involvements in SCC were: having a child who requires extra support enrolled (28.0%), taking workshops (17.7%), working

with an SCC consultant (14.5%), attending meetings (10.3%), and receiving information and advice (9.5%).

Licensed FCC providers were asked to rank potential barriers that would be salient for them with regards to including children who require additional support in their programs. The rankings were weighted so that three points were given for an option ranked first, two points for a second-place ranking, and one point for a third-place ranking. Once the points were summed over all of the options, the overall sums were converted into percentages.

For licensed FCC providers, the top-ranked barriers to inclusion were:

1. the number of children already enrolled (28.4%)
2. costs of extra staff, renovations, equipment, supplies, etc. (27.1%)
3. concern about the quality of care provided for children who require extra support (21.2%)
4. lack of appropriate education and training (19.2%)
5. other barriers (4.2%).

The order of these four barriers is different than it was in 1997. The cost issue ranked highest four years ago, followed by lack of education and training, the number of children enrolled, and concerns about quality care.

When asked if the barriers to inclusive child care have been reduced in the past two years, 14% responded negatively, 22% responded positively, and 64% did not know.

Licensed FCC providers who have been involved in SCC were asked to rank different supports in terms of how helpful each has been to making their programs more inclusive. The same weighting scheme was used as with the barriers to SCC, to arrive at a weighted percentage.

The top-ranked supports for inclusion were:

1. education and training for provider and any staff (32.2%)
2. close working relationship with consultants and other health care professionals (31.5%)
3. specialized assistance at the program (18.7%)
4. financial support (16.0%)
5. other supports (1.6%).

In 1997, the order of these supports (at that time, more potential than experienced) was somewhat different. The rank order then was education and training, followed by financial support, specialized assistance, and close working relationships.

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR)

In the province as a whole, 97.8% of licensed FCC providers reported that there is a Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) serving their community. There were three HRs where this percentage was under 94%. In the East Kootenay HR, 11% of caregivers answered that there was no CCRR serving their community. In the Peace Liard HR, 10% did not know. In the North West HR, 4% of licensed FCC caregivers responded that there was not a CCRR serving their community, and 4% did not know if there was a CCRR.

Table F22 shows the involvement of FCC facilities in different CCRR services and events. Overall, only 1.7% of facilities with a local CCRR reported having no involvement, compared to 3.4% in 1997. Ninety percent of licensed FCC facilities are on the caregiver registry and 93% get their liability insurance through the group plan offered by CCRRs. Eighty-seven percent of providers received written materials from the CCRR and 86% have attended their workshops. Sixty-three percent have borrowed equipment.

Rates of involvement were quite varied for licensed FCC providers in different HRs, but for the province overall, involvement rates have increased in almost every category

since 1997. The most dramatic increase has been in receiving written materials, which more than doubled from 43% in 1997 to 87% in 2001. Workshop attendance rates increased from 74% to 86%, borrowing equipment went from 63% to 72%, and registration increased from 85% to 90%.

Licensed family child care providers were also asked for their satisfaction with nine different CCRR services. A 4-point scale was used, with "1" representing "very dissatisfied" and "4" representing "very satisfied." The mean satisfaction scores (see Table F23) were high, indicating relatively little dissatisfaction with services. As Table F24 shows, at least 95% of providers were satisfied with most services. There were two services with satisfaction less than 90% - referrals (87.5%) and networking (89.6%). Table F24 shows a breakdown of the percentage of dissatisfied providers by HR.

Table F22 Percentage of Licensed Family Child Care Facilities Involved in Local Child Care Resource and Referral Services

<u>Health Region</u>	<u>Not Involved</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>On Registry</u>	<u>Get Insurance</u>	<u>Attend Workshops</u>	<u>Borrow Books</u>	<u>Borrow Equipment</u>	<u>Receive Materials</u>	<u>Attend Meetings</u>
East Kootenay	2.1	91.5	81.3	91.5	81.3	50.0	85.1	81.3	68.8
West Kootenay	0.0	96.2	90.4	96.2	92.5	79.2	86.8	83.0	66.0
North Okanagan	2.8	95.8	91.5	97.2	74.6	56.3	70.4	81.7	59.2
South Okanagan	1.3	98.7	86.4	96.8	94.2	53.9	77.9	92.9	64.3
Thompson	0.0	95.0	92.6	88.4	88.4	47.1	72.7	93.4	37.2
Fraser Valley	0.0	91.3	96.1	96.1	91.3	63.0	75.6	91.3	57.5
South Fraser Valley	1.0	95.9	95.9	95.9	92.5	52.4	67.5	90.1	58.2
Simon Fraser	2.6	88.7	88.0	89.5	75.5	38.0	59.8	86.0	53.6
Coast Garibaldi	0.0	92.1	78.4	97.3	59.5	36.8	84.2	78.4	81.6
Central Van. Island	2.1	88.4	94.8	96.6	86.3	46.8	78.5	85.0	56.2
Upper Island	0.0	74.7	88.4	93.8	90.5	45.3	76.8	88.4	72.6
Cariboo	0.0	98.6	98.6	98.6	98.6	75.0	90.1	94.4	63.4
North West	4.3	52.2	85.1	91.3	80.9	52.2	85.1	91.3	34.0
Peace Liard	0.0	55.6	100.0	72.2	16.7	16.7	55.6	100.0	16.7
Northern Interior	0.0	98.5	94.1	98.5	94.1	47.4	62.2	90.4	39.0
Vancouver	0.0	70.4	96.0	94.4	94.4	66.1	82.3	88.0	60.5
Burnaby	5.1	94.9	92.1	100.0	84.2	63.2	71.1	92.1	50.0
North Shore	2.4	83.7	80.0	83.7	72.9	34.1	65.9	77.6	17.6
Richmond	3.0	100.0	90.9	97.0	88.1	83.3	80.6	76.1	56.7
Capital	4.4	87.1	80.9	81.3	80.1	57.0	64.7	82.7	57.0
B.C. Total	1.7	89.6	90.3	92.7	85.6	52.5	72.1	87.2	54.7

<u>Type of CCRR Service</u>	<u>Mean Score</u>
Information / support	3.70
Referrals	3.45
Lending Library	3.63
Workshops	3.58
Equipment lending	3.67
Home visits	3.53
Newsletters	3.76
Networking	3.46
Liability insurance	3.78

Infant/Toddler Incentive Grant (ITIG)

Table F25 shows that almost 94% of licensed FCC providers are aware of the Infant/Toddler Incentive Grant (ITIG). This is similar to 1997, when awareness was 95%. Awareness levels were over 90% for all HRs except Capital (88.7%) and North Okanagan (89.2%). Provincially, 80.5% of licensed FCC caregivers reported having ever received the ITIG. The highest percentage of licensed FCC facilities receiving the grant were in Coast Garibaldi region (92.1%) and West Kootenay (91.7%). There were three regions where fewer than 70% of licensed FCC facilities had ever received the ITIG: Peace Liard (63.2%), Burnaby (66.7%), and East Kootenay (68.0%).

For those providers who had never received the Infant/Toddler Incentive Grant, the top five reasons given were: they did not apply in time or were wait-listed (16.4%), they had never applied for the ITIG (15.8%), they did not enroll infants or toddlers (13.4%), they applied but had not yet received the ITIG (7.6%), and they found the application process/paperwork too difficult or too much trouble (7.3%). For the providers who have received the ITIG, the top five ways in which they have used the grant money

were for: equipment (48.7%), toys/books (26.8%), supplies (13.9%), operating costs (8.5%), and repairs/renovations (7.5%).

Licensed FCC providers who had received the ITIG were asked if they offered care for infants and toddlers before the grant was available – 92.0% reported that they did. These same providers were asked if they were more likely to accept children under three because of the grant. A small majority of licensed FCC caregivers (54.5%) reported that they were more likely to accept infants and toddlers, while 45.5% responded negatively to the question.

Other Sources of Support

Licensed family child care providers were asked to choose from a list of organizations, other than CCRRs, that had provided them with support in the past year. Twenty-seven percent of the facilities did not choose any organization. Of those that did choose at least one organization, 72.4% chose the regional Health Authority, followed in order of declining frequency by: a local family child care organization (27.6%); the Western Canada Family Child Care Association (22.2%); Supported Child Care (21.9%); the Infant Development Program (13.5%); Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre (13.4%); and ECEBC (9.6%). The 13.4% of caregivers choosing Westcoast were composed of 11.4% who chose the Westcoast Library and 5.0% who chose Multicultural and Diversity Services.

<u>Health Region</u>	<u>Information / Support</u>	<u>Referrals</u>	<u>Lending Library</u>	<u>Workshops</u>	<u>Equipment Lending</u>	<u>Home Visits</u>	<u>Newsletters</u>	<u>Networking</u>	<u>Liability Insurance</u>
East Kootenay	100.0	90.0	100.0	97.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	94.6	100.0
West Kootenay	90.4	82.4	96.1	96.1	96.1	88.7	92.4	84.6	96.2
North Okanagan	88.6	83.5	92.4	87.5	92.6	84.1	91.4	86.7	89.9
South Okanagan	96.1	85.4	92.6	97.2	93.1	89.1	100.0	89.0	97.4
Thompson	95.8	94.4	91.2	92.7	93.1	83.1	96.8	91.1	92.8
Fraser Valley	93.6	76.8	93.4	89.2	95.3	95.9	100.0	83.0	100.0
South Fraser Valley	91.9	86.8	96.8	91.3	96.2	93.1	95.9	90.3	96.5
Simon Fraser	96.8	89.3	96.5	99.1	98.9	93.8	98.4	94.1	95.8
Coast Garibaldi	92.1	65.6	86.2	73.4	87.5	84.9	97.3	83.4	100.0
Central Van. Island	96.9	89.8	92.7	91.6	90.0	90.5	98.2	91.9	97.8
Upper Island	95.7	84.1	97.3	97.8	95.2	93.1	93.6	92.2	95.7
Cariboo	100.0	94.4	98.5	98.6	100.0	94.4	100.0	94.9	100.0
North West	95.5	90.5	95.0	85.3	95.2	90.4	100.0	86.2	100.0
Peace Liard	100.0	100.0	100.0	67.7	83.3	100.0	100.0	62.5	86.7
Northern Interior	95.3	87.9	95.7	87.8	96.2	84.8	91.9	88.6	98.5
Vancouver	98.3	94.9	96.0	96.5	100.0	92.4	98.4	94.8	96.7
Burnaby	94.9	88.8	93.5	94.4	94.1	94.9	94.9	88.9	89.8
North Shore	100.0	80.5	92.6	94.3	90.6	91.6	97.4	84.0	94.6
Richmond	95.4	80.6	95.0	90.4	96.6	92.5	95.4	93.2	97.0
Capital	96.3	90.6	98.0	94.7	97.4	89.2	98.7	85.1	98.2
B.C. Total	95.5	87.5	95.2	93.2	95.3	91.0	98.2	89.6	96.7

Table F25 Percentage of Licensed Family Child Care Providers Aware of Infant/Toddler Grant, and Who Have Received ITIG, by Health Region

<u>Health Region</u>	<u>Aware of ITIG</u>	<u>Received ITIG</u>
East Kootenay	94.4	68.0
West Kootenay	92.5	91.7
North Okanagan	89.2	77.6
South Okanagan	97.4	84.1
Thompson	98.3	77.6
Fraser Valley	91.3	81.6
South Fraser Valley	93.6	84.2
Simon Fraser	90.5	82.4
Coast Garibaldi	97.4	92.1
Central Van. Island	95.7	87.1
Upper Island	93.8	83.0
Cariboo	98.6	78.6
North West	96.2	52.9
Peace Liard	90.0	63.2
Northern Interior	98.5	82.8
Vancouver	96.1	83.3
Burnaby	91.9	66.7
North Shore	95.5	77.6
Richmond	95.4	83.9
Capital	88.7	73.2
B.C. Total	93.8	80.5

Technology

As Table F26 shows, over three-quarters (76.4%) of licensed FCC caregivers in the province have a computer. This proportion was highest in the Coast Garibaldi (89.7%) and Fraser Valley regions (86.0%), and lowest in the Peace Liard (50.0%) and Vancouver (63.5%) regions. Of those without a computer, only 21.4% have no interest in using one. The top support for using a computer was funding to purchase hardware and software (57.4% of caregivers), followed by computer/software training, which was chosen by 51.1% of caregivers without computers.

For those caregivers that use computers, almost half (46.2%) have e-mail that they use for business purposes. For most HRs, the percentage ranged from 40% to 55%. The HRs with the highest e-mail use for business were: Coast Garibaldi (59.4%) and Cariboo (58.2%), and the lowest were Peace Liard (0%) and Vancouver (20.5%).

Sixty percent of licensed FCC caregivers with computers use the Internet as part of their child care work. Caregivers in the Upper Island (80.0%) and North West (78.6%) HRs were most likely to use the Internet, while those in Peace Liard (37.5%) and Vancouver (38.8%) regions were least likely. Caregivers' use the Internet, in order of frequency, was: for education, training and professional development (70.6%), to connect with other child care organizations (44.0%), to get information about government services and programs (39.7%), and for CCRR information (33.7%).

Caregivers with computers were also asked to check potential ways that they use their computer to help manage their child care businesses. The most frequently checked option was "creating forms" (74.7%), followed by "bookkeeping" (50.0%), doing taxes (40.3%), and enrolment tracking (25.9%).

<u>Health Region</u>	<u>Have computer (%)</u>	<u>Use e-mail for business (%)*</u>	<u>Use Internet for child care work (%)*</u>
East Kootenay	69.8	52.9	73.0
West Kootenay	75.5	52.6	55.0
North Okanagan	76.0	43.6	54.4
South Okanagan	72.7	49.1	52.8
Thompson	83.6	47.1	60.8
Fraser Valley	86.0	43.9	50.9
South Fraser Valley	77.9	42.0	56.3
Simon Fraser	77.3	42.5	58.7
Coast Garibaldi	89.7	59.4	57.6
Central Van. Island	76.5	52.1	69.6
Upper Island	68.8	56.3	80.0
Cariboo	77.1	58.2	66.7
North West	83.0	57.1	78.6
Peace Liard	50.0	0.0	37.5
Northern Interior	76.6	54.4	68.9
Vancouver	63.5	20.5	38.8
Burnaby	72.5	50.0	72.4
North Shore	69.7	45.8	40.3
Richmond	70.8	37.1	51.2
Capital	80.5	47.1	64.9
B.C. Total	76.4	46.2	60.1

* Percentages apply only to those with computers

Paid Staff and Volunteers

Thirty-one percent of all licensed FCC facilities have paid staff in addition to the provider-in-charge, which is similar to the results in 1997. Of those providers with paid staff, 66% have one staff member, and 34% have two or more.

Approximately 48% of paid staff are family members of the provider, and 4.5% are parents of enrolled children. Only 6.3% of staff work full-time, compared to

31.3% part-time and 62.4% casually. Table F27 shows the percentage of other paid staff that perform various tasks at the facility. Almost all paid staff help with the children, while two-thirds assist with cleaning and maintenance. Thirty percent of paid staff have worked for the provider for under one year, compared to 28.3% who have worked one to two years, 22.8% who have worked three to five years, and 18.8% who have worked for over five years.

Type of Task	% of Staff
Helping with children	75.2
Administration and bookkeeping	7.8
Cleaning and maintenance	56.3
Cooking	24.2
Other	12.8

Licensed FCC providers were asked if they have any volunteer or student help in the past year. Overall, 27.5% of providers reported having volunteer or student help. Of those providers who have volunteer help, the majority (51.7%) have one volunteer. Thirty percent of these licensed FCC providers have two volunteers, and 19% have three or more. The volunteers/students at licensed FCC facilities are composed of: 46.8% family members of the provider, 9.7% parents of enrolled children, 25.3% high school students, and 18.2% college or university students. Only 4.0% of volunteers help full-time, compared with 27.4% who assist part-time, and 68.7% who volunteer on a casual basis. Table F28 shows the types of tasks performed by volunteers or students. Just under half (44.4%) of volunteers/students have been with the provider for under one year, compared to 20.7% who have been there for one to two years, 17.2% who have been there three to five years, and 17.8% whose tenure at the facility is more than five years.

Table F28 Percentage of Volunteers or Students that Perform Various Tasks at Licensed FCC Facilities	
Type of Task	% Volunteers or Students
Helping with children	78.8
Administration and bookkeeping	6.1
Cleaning and maintenance	42.0
Cooking	18.5
Other	10.9

Financial Information

In the province as a whole, 85.7% of providers own their homes, and 13.5% of the providers' homes are rented or leased. As Table F29 shows, the regions of the province where over 90% of providers own their family child care homes were: Thompson, Fraser Valley, South Fraser Valley, Central Vancouver Island, and Northern Interior. There were two regions where fewer than 75% of providers owned their family child care homes: Burnaby and Vancouver.

Table F29 Percentage of Licensed Family Child Care Providers that Rent, Lease or Own their Home, by Health Region				
<u>Health Region</u>	<u>Rent</u>	<u>Lease</u>	<u>Own</u>	<u>Other</u>
East Kootenay	10.9	0.0	89.1	0.0
West Kootenay	13.2	0.0	86.8	0.0
North Okanagan	13.3	0.0	84.0	2.7
South Okanagan	14.7	1.3	84.0	0.0
Thompson	4.1	0.0	93.5	2.4
Fraser Valley	3.9	0.0	96.1	0.0
South Fraser Valley	6.7	1.0	91.6	0.7
Simon Fraser	11.7	0.7	87.5	0.0
Coast Garibaldi	17.9	0.0	82.1	0.0
Central Van. Island	5.2	0.0	93.5	1.3
Upper Island	6.3	0.0	89.6	4.2
Cariboo	13.9	0.0	84.7	1.4
North West	17.0	0.0	83.0	0.0
Peace Liard	9.5	9.5	81.0	0.0
Northern Interior	2.9	0.0	97.1	0.0
Vancouver	46.0	1.6	52.4	0.0
Burnaby	33.3	5.1	61.5	0.0
North Shore	17.0	0.0	83.0	0.0
Richmond	21.5	3.1	75.4	0.0
Capital	19.1	0.7	79.2	1.0
B.C. Total	13.0	0.7	85.6	0.7

Licensed FCC providers reported on their sources of revenue. Overall, 72.9% of providers' revenues came from parent fees, 22.0% from subsidies, 3.3% from grants (i.e., Infant Toddler Incentive Grant), and 1.8% from other sources. licensed FCC providers were also asked to estimate the percentage of their revenues that go towards the expenses incurred in providing child care services. The mean percentage of revenue that is taken up by expenses was 57.3% (median 55%), compared to a mean of 55.8% (median 50%) in 1997.

Age and Gender of Providers

As Table F30 shows, the average licensed FCC provider is between the ages of 35 and 44. Caregivers aged 45 and older now make up over 33% of the provincial licensed FCC workforce, compared to 26% four years ago. Male providers accounted for only 0.2% of all licensed FCC providers.

Age Group	% of 2001 Caregivers	% of 1997 Caregivers
Under 20	0.1	0.0
20 to 24	1.5	2.2
25 to 34	23.8	28.7
35 to 44	41.4	43.1
45 to 55	26.2	21.3
Over 55	7.1	4.7

Training and Education of Providers

As Table F31 indicates, almost all licensed FCC providers have had their First Aid. Three-quarters have taken some CCRR workshops or courses, and 65.3% have taken either an introductory family child care course, such as Good Beginnings, or the 150 hour family child care training course. Seventeen per cent were Registered ECE, with another 9.2% either in the process of taking their courses or lacking only their 500 hours of practicum.

Professional Development and Work Experience

Licensed FCC providers were asked how many hours they had spent in workshops, conferences, and in other professional development activities in the past year. Of the 86.4% of respondents that answered any of these three items, 89.2% had participated in one or more workshops, 28.6% had participated in one or more conferences, and 31.2% had experienced some sort of other professional development. The mean number of hours in workshops was 17.5 (median 10.0 hours); the mean number of hours in conferences was 3.7 (median 0 hours), and the mean hours in other professional development was 9.5 (median 0 hours).

Licensed family child care providers, taken all together, reported 11.1 years on average (median 10 years) of work experience as a professional in the child care field, up from a mean of 9.6 years (median 8 years) in 1997.

Major Themes of Respondents' Comments - Family Child Care Survey

Open-ended comments were made on 517 family child care surveys, in response to the question:

“Do you have any comments you would like to share regarding topics covered in this survey (e.g., fees, subsidies, licensing, supports)?”

Table F32 shows the themes that emerged in the open-ended comments.

Table F31 Training and Education of Licensed Family Child Care Providers, 2001 vs. 1997

Type of Training/Education	% of 2001 Providers	% of 1997 Providers
None	0.3	0.4
CCRR courses/workshops	74.6	61.7
Introductory family child care course	45.7	40.0
150 hour family child care course	19.6	16.5
First Aid	95.4	96.0
Foodsafe	34.2	26.0
Other family child care training	40.0	34.6
Basic ECE incomplete	5.3	6.4
ECE complete, but not registered	3.9	3.0
Registered ECE	16.6	14.3
Registered Infant/Toddler	5.2	3.0
Registered Special Needs	3.2	1.8
Other ECE training	4.1	6.1
Human Services courses	4.8	5.3
Human Services degree	0.9	2.6
Other training	6.7	12.4

Table F32 Major Themes of Respondents' Comments Family Child Care		
Themes	# of Comments	% of Comments
Subsidy Rates	119	23.0
Licensing/regulation	89	17.2
Universal child care program	80	15.5
Low pay/income	67	13.0
Subsidy system	64	12.4
Group size/ages of children	58	11.2
Training	53	10.3
Quality	47	9.1
Need for additional funding	42	8.1
Fees	39	7.5
Child Care Resource & Referral	27	5.2
Lack of benefits/vacation	24	4.6
Recognition/respect	24	4.6
Equality in grants/subsidies for centres and family child care	22	4.3
Leaving licensed family child care	21	4.1
The survey	21	4.1
Love/enjoy/pride in work	19	3.7
Unlicensed child care	18	3.5
Ratio	15	2.9
Long hours	13	2.5
Infant/Toddler Grant	12	2.3
Including own child in ratios	12	2.3
Supported Child Care	8	1.5
Request	8	1.5
Isolated	7	1.4
Competition	5	1.0
Demand for part-time care	5	1.0